

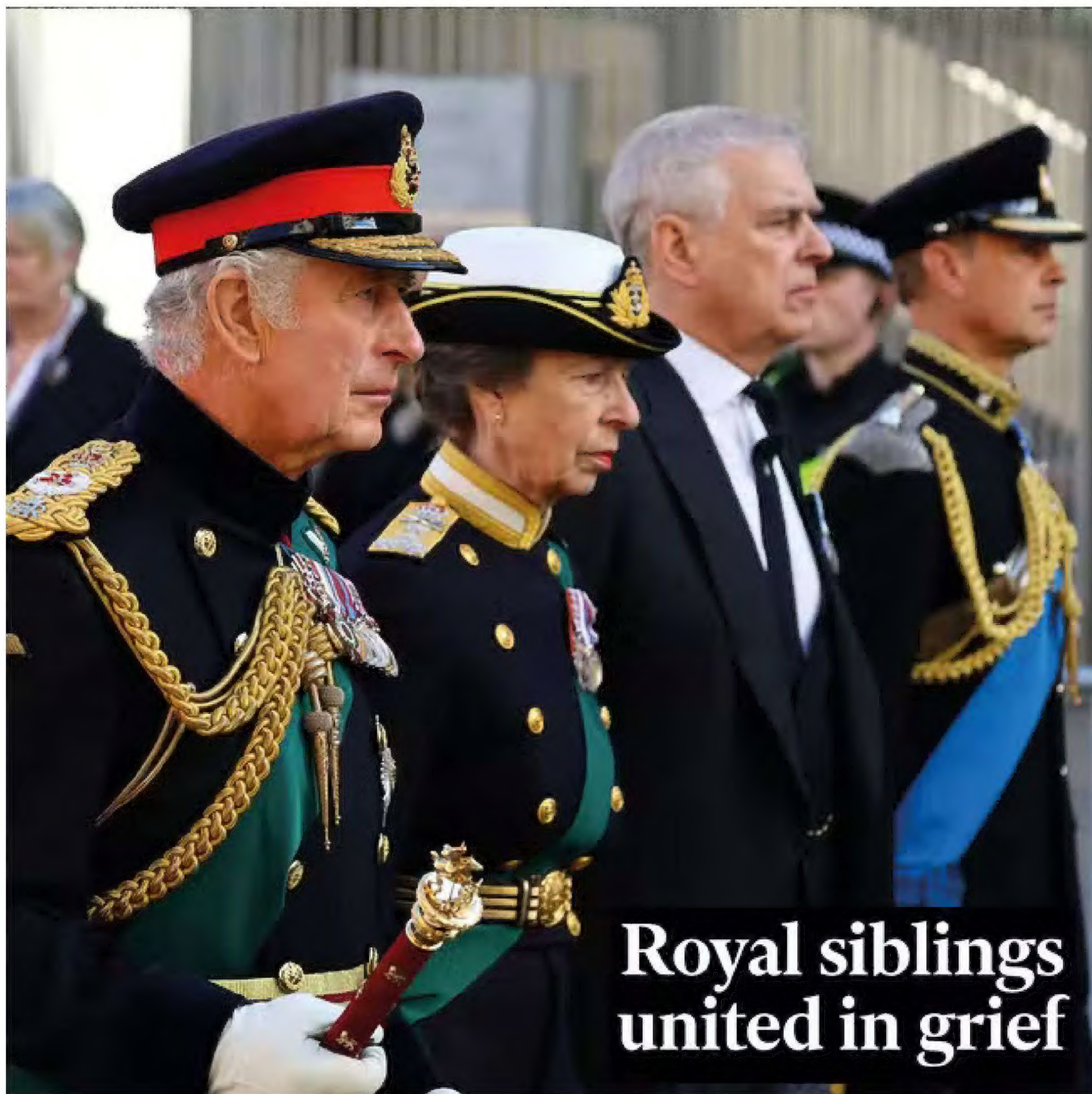


The

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Royal siblings
united in grief

Ukraine's counterattack reaches Russian border

Zelensky's troops reclaim dozens of towns in northeast

**DAVID HARDING AND KIM
SENGUPTA**
IN KYIV

Ukrainian forces continued to push forward and recapture invaded territory yesterday as criticism of the war grew louder in Russia. Ukrainian

flags fluttered over liberated towns in the northeast of the country, with Kyiv saying its troops had freed more than 20 settlements in 24 hours. Russia acknowledged it was abandoning Iziurm, its main stronghold in the area. As the seven-month-long war entered

a seemingly critical phase, Russian forces responded by attacking power stations and other infrastructure in Kharkiv, plunging thousands of homes into darkness. Ukrainian forces outnumbered Russians by eight to one in the counterattack, Moscow said.



Editorials

We can finally hope for an end to the war in Ukraine

The obsequies for the late Queen have, inevitably, tended to block out other news stories that would otherwise have commanded attention. Indeed, the very moment when the nation realised its monarch was gravely ill came just as parliament was debating the government's proposals to ameliorate the cost of living crisis.

After that, little notice was paid to the energy price guarantee, or to what remains a transcendent problem for too many families – inflation. People across the world have felt the need to grieve for Elizabeth II, in their own ways. This has been a period during which Britain, and the Commonwealth, paused and looked back. So we have missed things while we were distracted by men wearing bicorn hats, tights and tabards. The various crises we faced a week ago have not disappeared: there have been quite significant developments.

For example, strange to say – and unexpectedly – there is what appears to be highly encouraging news from Ukraine. The Ukrainian counterattacks in the east of the country have taken everyone, not least the Russian occupiers, by surprise. Russian forces, reportedly outnumbered by eight to one, were routed,

and retreated so rapidly that they left tanks and ammunition behind (as well as half-eaten meals – though if the rumours about the quality of Russian army rations are anything to go by, this is more comprehensible).

Places assumed to have been lost to Ukraine for ever have been liberated, and Kyiv has hailed its operation as the most successful counterattack since the end of the Second World War (when, ironically, the counterattacks were by Russians and Ukrainians fighting real fascism side by side). As ever, there is propaganda, and caution has to be exercised in making judgements, but the Russian authorities don't actually deny the "regrouping", and the renewed rocket attacks on Kyiv and other cities appear to indicate a thirst for revenge after humiliating setbacks.

The reasons for the dramatic turn of events are straightforward. First, the Ukrainians have acquired for themselves the great strategic advantage of a reputation for bravery. This has been hard won, but itself acts as a deterrent to the Russians. With valiant civilian resilience, it further gives the lie to the notion that the Ukrainian people were yearning to be "liberated" from Nazism by the Russians. Slowly, and patchily, the truth about Vladimir Putin's dirty little war is dawning on his citizens, and certainly on his soldiers.

Second, the Russian army has long shown itself to be poorly led, poorly fed, badly equipped and generally ill-prepared. Morale is low, among both conscripts and the mercenaries recruited from non-Russian ethnic groups. Many poorly educated volunteers desperate for a steady income assumed they would not have to fight many wars, and that their chances of survival were good. The war in Ukraine has not been like that, and in this respect is more like the hopeless war of aggression fought in Afghanistan through the 1980s.

Russian forces have always shown extreme courage when their motherland is threatened, but futile wars of aggression against otherwise friendly neighbours are another matter. Though still far from certain, a golden scenario now emerges: an end to the war, and to the energy crisis.

Further Western military supplies, bolstered with captured Russian materiel, could see the Russians pushed still further back to the original border, and perhaps much of the Donbas and the south returned to Ukrainian control. Crimea, occupied by Russia in 2014, could be cut off, and the Russian blockade of the Black Sea loosened. Effective Western armament, alongside intelligence and economic help, is likely to inflict further defeat on the Russian forces.

In this scenario, President Putin himself surely becomes vulnerable. Russia is an authoritarian state, run by a former KGB man, in which repression is a way of life. It is also a land of revolution and intrigue. Russians are starting to blame their own armed forces and intelligence services for their heavy losses. It may not be long before this morphs into coded, and then more explicit, criticism of the Kremlin – and of the president himself, for lumbering his people with a war they cannot win, may lose, and, either way, are being impoverished by as a consequence of economic sanctions.

President Putin's realistic options are few. This is perhaps why the official line suggests that the “special military operation” will continue, indefinitely, until all its objectives have been met – including, presumably, the subjugation of the entire Ukrainian nation, and the departure of its president to exile or worse. The implication is that there is no other obvious course of action.

Such a prospect cannot be reassuring. Mobilising Russia as if for a general war with the West seems impracticable, given the feeble state of the present military effort – and would be deeply unpopular among Russians. Further withdrawals would merely encourage the Ukrainians to press on. The use of battlefield nuclear weapons, or the destruction of atomic power facilities, would literally blow back and pollute Russia itself. Widening the war to Nato members such as Finland or Estonia would invite immediate, crushing defeat. Escalation to nuclear war with the West would be another bluff.

Which leaves President Putin in a similar position to that of the late Mikhail Gorbachev in the 1980s, when the latter found himself dealing with Afghanistan, an unwinnable Cold War, and

the unsustainable occupation of Eastern Europe. Now, as then, the Russian economy cannot support the nation's imperial pretensions. Peace and prosperity, sooner or later, will seem the more attractive option, with or without Mr Putin in charge. It might happen very quickly, and with it will come the beginning of the end of the energy crisis. These are indeed momentous times.

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Joy and tears for Ukrainians as troops recapture towns

Kyiv forces reach border as Putin is criticised in Russia



Laid down arms: a police sapper sorts mine shells and weapons in a village liberated by Ukrainian forces (Reuters)

DAVID HARDING
AISHA RIMI

Ukraine forces continued to push forward and recapture invaded territory – even reaching the border in one area – officials said yesterday, as criticism of the war grew louder in Russia.

Blue-and-yellow Ukrainian flags fluttered over newly liberated towns in the northeast of the country with Kyiv claiming its troops had freed more than 20 settlements in 24 hours. Russia acknowledged it was abandoning Izium, its main stronghold in the area.

As the seven-month-long war entered a seemingly critical phase, Russian forces responded by attacking power stations and other critical infrastructure in Kharkiv, plunging thousands of people in cities and towns into darkness.

Ukraine's president Volodymyr Zelensky said Moscow's "deliberate and cynical" targeting of civilians – a charge always denied by Moscow – was an act of terrorism.

"Do you still think you can intimidate, break us, force us to make concessions?" Mr Zelensky said. "Cold, hunger, darkness and thirst for us are not as scary and deadly as your 'friendship' and 'brotherhood'."

He added: "We will be with gas, lights, water and food, and without you!"

Ihor Terekhov, the mayor of Kharkiv, accused Russia of shelling densely populated areas.

The impact of the rapid and dramatic advance by Ukrainian forces was also felt in Moscow, where there was rare criticism of the Russian military and political leaders, including President Vladimir Putin.

In recent days, Kyiv's forces have captured territory at least twice the size of greater London, according to British defence officials. Ukrainian forces outnumbered Russians by eight to one in the counterattack, Moscow said.

After months of little discernible movement on the battlefield, the momentum has noticeably lifted Ukrainian morale.

“In some areas of the front, our defenders reached the state border with the Russian Federation,” said Oleh Synyehubov, governor of the northeastern Kharkiv region.

Over the weekend, Russia said troops would be pulled from areas in that region to regroup in the eastern region of Donetsk.

There were reports of chaos as Russian troops abruptly pulled out.

“The Russians were here in the morning. Then at noon, they suddenly started shouting wildly and began to run away, charging off in tanks and armoured vehicles,” Dmytro Hrushchenko, a resident of recently liberated Zaliznychne, said.

“People are crying, people are joyful, of course. How could they not be joyful,” said retired English teacher Zoya, 76, north of Kharkiv in the village of Zolochiv, weeping as she described the months she had spent sheltering.



A map shows the gains made by Ukraine forces in the northeast of the country (Independent)

Nastya, 28, had fled the village in April but returned last week after news of Ukrainian advances: “I think everyone’s in a great mood! It’s all over now. At least we hope it’s all over.”

Video taken by the Ukrainian military showed soldiers raising the Ukrainian flag over battle-damaged buildings. In one scene, a fighter wiped his boots on a Russian flag on the ground.

Russian officials said it had stopped sending new units into Ukraine.

However, Moscow's bombardment of Kharkiv ignited a massive fire at a power station on the western outskirts of the city, killing at least one person and leaving Ukraine's second-largest city without power.

Several areas were hit with widespread blackouts and cuts in water supply due to Russian attacks on infrastructure sites, the region's governor said.



Battle scars: a Ukrainian soldier approaches a Russian tank damaged near Balakleya in the Kharkiv region (AP)

“The [Russian] occupiers have struck critical infrastructure in the city and region of Kharkiv,” Mr Synyehubov wrote on Telegram.

The head of the eastern Sumy region, Dmytro Zhyvytskyy, said cuts to electricity and water supplies had impacted at least 135 towns and villages.

Ukraine's gains caused political ripples in Moscow. Some Russian officials took the brave step of publicly calling for Vladimir Putin's resignation. District councils in the leader's home city of St Petersburg were among those urging the country to oust the 69-year-old.

Deputies from the Smolninsky District issued a statement calling for him to be tried for treason. Dmitry Palyuga, one of the councillors, tweeted that the motion was supported by most of the district's deputies.

“We believe that the decision made by President Putin to start the special military operation is detrimental to the security of Russia and its citizens,” he said.

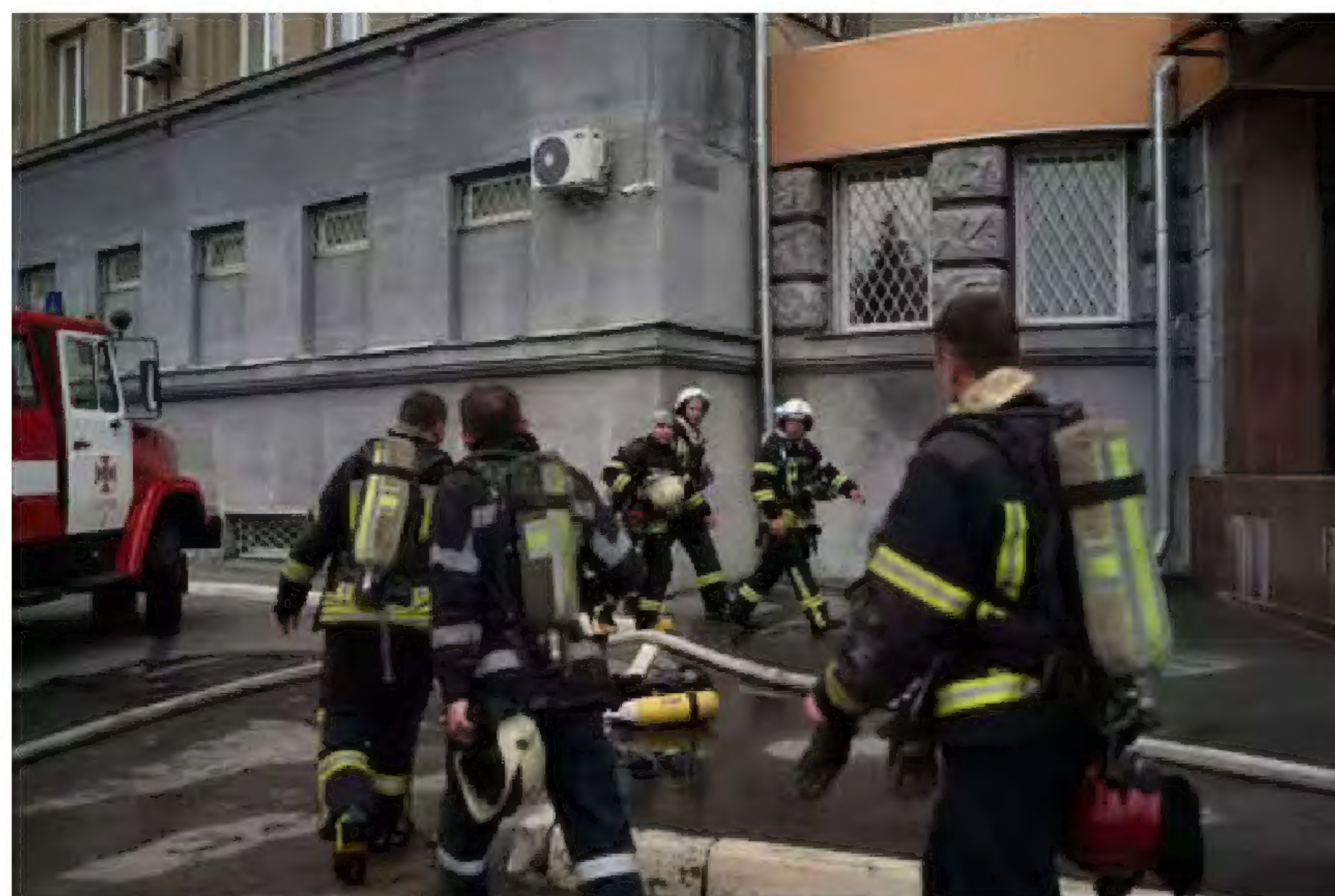
Criticism of Mr Putin also aired on TV. In a rare show of defiance, Boris Nadezhdin, a former liberal politician, told a Gazprom-owned channel that Mr Putin had been misled into thinking Ukraine would capitulate if he invaded.

“We are now at the point where we have to understand that it’s absolutely impossible to defeat Ukraine using those resources and colonial methods with which Russia is trying to wage war,” he said.

Ramzan Kadyrov, the Moscow-backed leader of the Russian region of Chechnya, publicly criticised the Russian Defence Ministry for what he called “mistakes” that made the Ukrainian blitz possible.

The Kremlin though remained defiant, claiming it would achieve all of its aims in Ukraine, despite Ukraine’s military gains.

In Moscow’s first public comments since Ukraine forces successfully pushed back Russian forces in the Kharkiv region, Kremlin spokesperson Dmitry Peskov said: “The military operation continues. And it will continue until the goals that were originally set are achieved.”



Firefighters douse a fire in a Kharkiv police building (AP)

It is not yet clear if the Ukrainian blitz could signal a turning point in the war, although some analysts cautioned that fighting would likely go on for months.

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Russia takes 'revenge' with strikes on Ukraine facilities

Officials fear attacks on power facilities serving civilians may be the portent of a grim winter ahead, writes **Kim Sengupta**



Firefighters tackle a blaze at a power plant damaged by a Russian missile strike in Kharkiv on Sunday (Reuters)

Thousands of households in Ukraine are cut off from power and water following Russian attacks on infrastructure facilities, as the war in Ukraine reaches a new stage of attrition targeting civilians. The strikes came in retribution for Moscow's losses of key military strongholds and supply lines on one of the main

front lines in the conflict, after a surprise offensive resulted in one of the most significant gains made by Ukraine since the war began.

The military reverses have led to vehement criticism in Russia, even from staunch supporters of Vladimir Putin's invasion, and there have been calls for an investigation into why the mission is faltering so badly. The critics have been joined by the powerful voice of Ramzan Kadyrov, Russia's client leader in Chechnya, who has declared that the "real situation" on the ground is "astounding" and has accused the leadership of making major mistakes.

Thousands of Chechens have fought in Ukraine on behalf of Moscow since the conflict began, and a considerable number have been killed and injured. Mr Kadyrov, who has been a vocal backer of the war, has made morale-boosting visits to his troops, promising them victory in return for their sacrifices. The Chechen leader appeared to suggest that he will raise his concerns directly with President Putin.

"They have made mistakes, and I think they will draw the necessary conclusion. If today or tomorrow no changes in strategy are made, I'll be forced to speak with the leadership of the defence ministry and the leadership of the country to explain the real situation on the ground to them. It's a very interesting situation. It's astounding, I would say," he stated in a voice message on his Telegram channel.

Ukrainian intelligence officials said that Moscow had carried out another change in command following the newest losses, with the officer in charge of the Western Army Group being recalled after just 17 days at his post. The sacking of General Roman Berdnikov follows a now familiar pattern of commanders departing after military debacles.



Russian military food left behind following a Ukrainian army offensive in Kharkiv (AFP/Getty)

Whatever other military measures the Kremlin decides to take, Ukrainian and Western officials hold that the strikes on infrastructure are the grim shape of things to come in a winter in which Ukraine already faces an acute power crisis.

Volodymyr Zelensky blamed “Russian terrorists” for the strikes on power plants. “No military facilities were attacked. The goal is to deprive people of light and heat,” he said on social media. But, he said, Ukrainians have become used to Russian “treachery”, adding that “cold, hunger, darkness and thirst are not as terrible and deadly for us as [Russia’s] ‘friendship and brotherhood’”.

Ukraine’s president vowed that his nation would defy Russia’s attempts at intimidation. In what has been seen as a direct message to Mr Putin, he stated: “Do you still think that we are ‘one people’? Do you still think that you can scare us, break us, force us [to] make concessions? You really did not understand anything?”

Ihor Terekhov, the mayor of Kharkiv, described the attack on the power facilities as a “vile and cynical attempt at revenge” following Ukrainian success. The governor of Sumy, Dmytro Zhyvytsky, said in a message to residents: “Electric tension has fallen in the network through the region. I recommend disconnecting electrical devices as much as possible.”

President Zelensky said Ukrainian forces had retaken 3,000 sq km of territory by Sunday, rising from 2,000 sq km on Saturday and 1,000 sq km on Thursday. British officials said that an area equivalent to Greater London was retaken in that time.

On Saturday, the town of Kupiansk was captured by Ukrainian forces, providing them with the opportunity to cut off one of the main Russian logistical and communications lines on the Kharkiv front. On the same day, the Russians withdrew troops from the city of Izium, which sits on the main route to the Donbas, and which Mr Putin had promised to “reunify” with Russia. Moscow’s forces have captured a sizeable portion of the region, but the main cities of Slovyansk and Kramatorsk remain in Ukrainian hands despite previous expectations of their fall.

Two-thirds of the population of Izium has fled since the fighting began, but its citizens should be able to return in around 10 days’ time, said the city’s mayor, Valerii Marchenko. Ukrainian military officials stressed that the timeframe would depend on how long it takes to clear mines and booby traps.

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‘We will never ever see the likes of Her Majesty again’



Hundreds of thousands of people gathered to pay their respects to the late Queen as her coffin was driven through the streets of Edinburgh yesterday (PA)

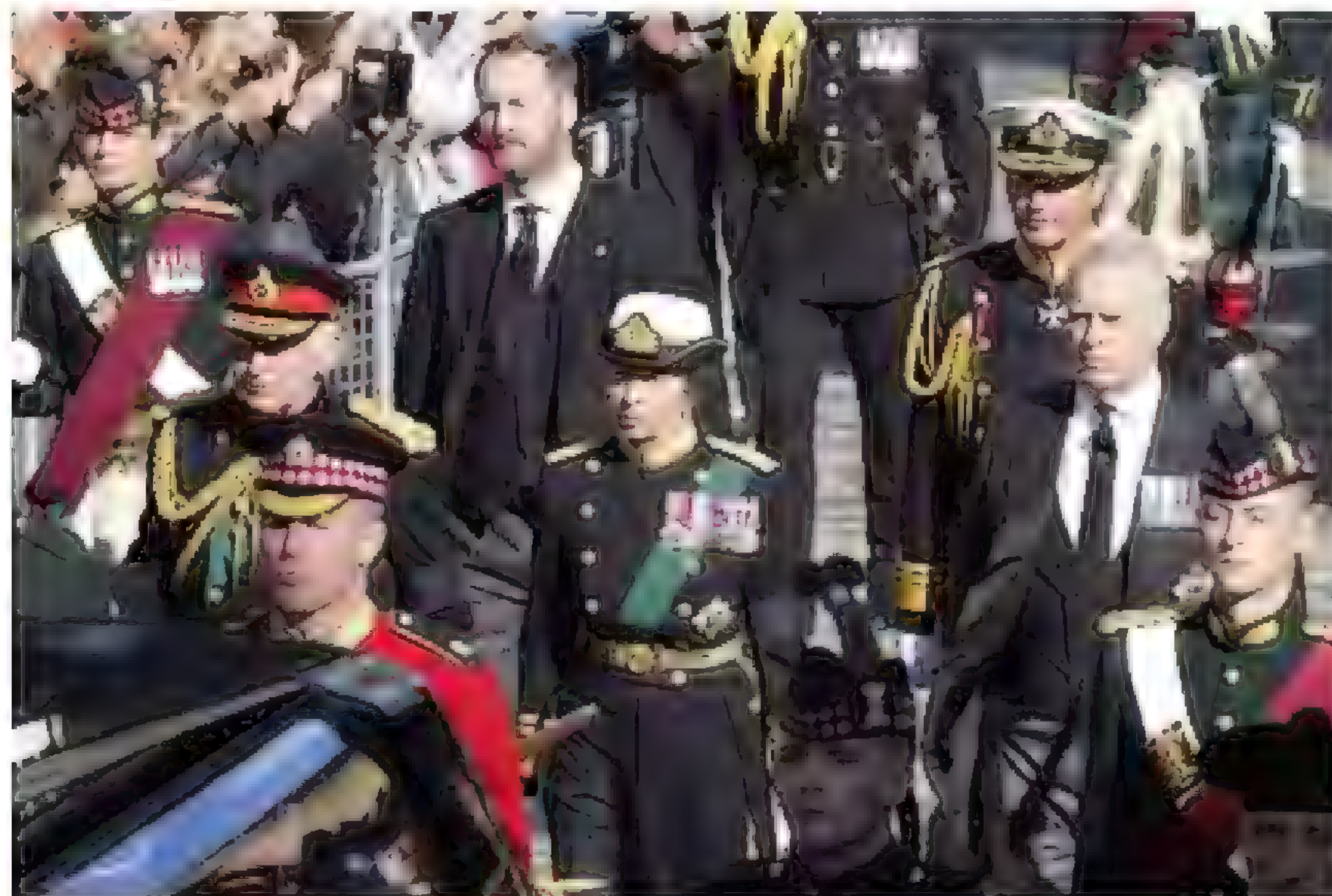
HOLLY BANCROFT

IN EDINBURGH

Clutching a bunch of white roses and hydrangeas, Amy Stevenson stood amid the hundreds of thousands of mourners crammed onto the Royal Mile. “They are actually my wedding bouquet. I thought it would be nice to bring them up and lay them for the Queen,” she explained. Ms Stevenson, nee

Manchini, who had got married on Sunday at Portobello Beach near Edinburgh, explained that she had chosen the colour white to “represent our loved ones that had passed”.

She stood patiently among the surging crowd, in which people were packed so tightly together that they couldn't move up or down the street. They waited and then watched in near silence for the Queen's coffin to pass by, followed by her children – King Charles III, the Princess Royal, Prince Andrew and Prince Edward. Camilla, the Queen Consort, and Sophie, the Countess of Wessex, followed the hearse in a car as the coffin of the late monarch was driven from the Palace of Holyroodhouse to St Giles' Cathedral to lie in state before being taken to London.



The hearse carrying the Queen's coffin was followed by the King, the Princess Royal, Prince Andrew and Prince Edward (PA)

It was the most public part of a long day for the grieving King. After addressing both houses of parliament in Westminster in the morning, he was driven to RAF Northolt to fly to Edinburgh, where the royal procession continued through the streets to the Palace of Holyroodhouse.

After the solemn parade up the Canongate and High Street to St Giles', there was a memorial service, after which the King and the Queen Consort travelled back down the Royal Mile to the Scottish parliament, where they were addressed by all five political party leaders. The King made his first address to the parliament in a speech that quoted Robert Burns. Later, the

royals travelled back up to St Giles' to stand vigil at the Queen's coffin in solemn silence, as the first of thousands of wellwishers passed through the cathedral to pay their respects.

It was a similarly long day for the crowds in the Scottish capital. Under the blazing sunshine, wellwishers including tourists from around the world were thrust together along the procession route, where they had gathered for a glimpse of history in the making. Even for those who were working, there was a sense that this was an important communal experience.



Amy Stevenson planned to lay her wedding bouquet at St Giles' Cathedral for the Queen (The Independent)

A G4S steward, who was helping to manage the crowds, loaded the live-stream of the procession onto her phone in order to narrate its progress to those patiently waiting. "We are moving, guys, we are moving," she declared, adding: "I'm doing a service to the people." A NewsHub TV presenter from New Zealand, Patrick Gower, who was there to film the procession, took

photos for a group of women who had come from Glasgow and Edinburgh.

Wilma, who had organised the day out for the group, said they had wanted to come and show their respects. “Many people speak and they don’t follow up with actions, but the Queen was right on it,” she said. She had been waiting on the Royal Mile with friends Fiona, Elizabeth Ray, and Margaret from 11am. “My mother named me Elizabeth R after the Queen. I’m here for my mum as well as myself,” Elizabeth said.



Thousands of people waited along the Royal Mile to watch the procession (PA)

Residents, along with people in hotel rooms that overlooked the street, hung out of their windows in anticipation of the procession going past. Guns began to go off every minute to mark the movement of the convoy as it inched ever closer. Eventually the crowd grew silent as they caught a glimpse of two mounted police officers who were leading the cortege. A polite smattering of applause broke out as the hearse finally approached and the royal family solemnly processed past.

The procession featured the bearer party, consisting of service personnel from the Royal Regiment of Scotland, flanking the hearse. They in turn were flanked by members of the King’s Bodyguard for Scotland. All those in the procession walked in step, moving from side to side as one, within touching distance of the coffin, which was draped in the royal standard of Scotland with a wreath of Balmoral flowers on top.



L to R: Nathan Ramsay, Dexter Fraser, Derek Fraser and Brooke Fraser (The Independent)

The silence was broken at one point by a woman who called out “God bless the Queen” a number of times, while at least one heckler shouted at Prince Andrew before being dragged away by police and angry passers-by.

It was a “history being made” for IT technician Derek Fraser, 50, who had brought his son, his daughter, and his son’s friend to watch the procession. They had got the bus yesterday morning from Falkirk, and found a position by the barriers at around 11am. “My daughter is hoping to study history at university, and I wanted her to be here,” said Mr Fraser. “It’s a very special moment in time. It’s hard to think of what it’ll be like without her,” said his daughter Brooke, 15.



King Charles III, the Queen Consort and the Princess Royal leaving the service at St Giles' Cathedral in Edinburgh (PA)

Irene Hamilton, 77, and Shona McManaus, 80, had packed bread rolls filled with Applewood smoked cheese, a box of dates, and some water to keep them going throughout the day. “If we really get weak, I’ve got Twirls,” said Ms Hamilton, pulling the chocolate bars out of her handbag.

Ms McManaus’s son was driving one of the cars in the procession, and the sisters were hoping to catch sight of him as well as the royals. “There is so much touring, and changing, and going to different places. Charles and Camilla must be exhausted, and I take my hat off to them,” Ms Hamilton added.

“The whole thing is just incredible,” Ms McManaus said. She recalled how her aunt had spent some time as a nurse at Buckingham Palace, saying: “She said Andrew and Edward used to chase each other round the corridors of the palace when they were young.”



Irene Hamilton (right) and her sister Shona McManus (The Independent)

Alfonso Ramirez, 60, and Beth Willman, 60, self-proclaimed royalists from Colorado, were in Edinburgh to celebrate their 30th wedding anniversary. “She was just such a classy woman. The Queen of the world,” Mr Ramirez said. The couple had changed their plans so that they could travel on to Balmoral castle to lay flowers. “It’s a once in a lifetime experience,” Mr Ramirez said.

The Queen’s coffin remained at St Giles’ Cathedral overnight and will be flown to London this afternoon. Debbie MacDonald, 45, and Joann Brown, 52, were determined that they would make it in to the cathedral to pay their respects. “We will be staying if needs be till midnight. We will not be moving until we have been into St Giles,” Ms Brown said. “We want to reflect what a fantastic role model and inspirational woman she really was. She was our defender of the faith,” she added. “We will never ever see the likes of Her Majesty again.”



Alfonso Ramirez and Beth Willman from Colorado were on holiday in Edinburgh (The Independent)

Inside St Giles', the Reverend Calum MacLeod welcomed the royal family, calling them "representatives of our nation's life", and spoke of "people whose lives were touched by the Queen in so many unforgettable ways". He said: "We gather to bid Scotland's farewell to our late monarch, whose life of service to the nation and the world we celebrate. And whose love for Scotland was legendary."

The Reverend Dr Greenshields, moderator of the General Assembly of the Church of Scotland, delivered the homily. He said of the Queen: "She was determined to see her work as a form of service to others, and she maintained that steady course until the end of her life."



Joann Brown (left) and Debbie MacDonald said the Queen was 'an inspirational woman' (The Independent)

The senior minister added: “And although sometimes buffeted by events around her, she continued resolutely and cheerfully to fulfil her responsibilities. And so today we give thanks not only for the length of her reign, but for the qualities she displayed so steadfastly.”

At the Scottish parliament, the new King also praised his mother’s life of “incomparable service”.

“If I might paraphrase the words of the great Robert Burns, my dear mother was the friend of man, the friend of truth, the friend of age and guide of youth,” he said. “Few hearts like hers, with virtue warm’d; few heads with knowledge so inform’d.” The quote was taken from Burns’s poem “Epitaph on My Own Friend”.

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Charles leads guard of honour for late Queen



King Charles III and his siblings stand vigil around the coffin in Edinburgh yesterday (AP)

ANDY GREGORY

King Charles III and other senior royals have kept vigil by the coffin of his late mother, Queen Elizabeth II, as her body lay in state at St Giles' Cathedral in Edinburgh.

Charles and his siblings – the Princess Royal, the Duke of York and the Earl of Wessex – took their places at the four sides of the oak coffin, which was draped in the Lion Rampart and flag of St Andrew's, and adorned with the Crown of Scotland.

They stood alongside four suited members of the Royal Company of Archers, who were standing guard while dressed in long-feathered hats and armed with arrows and quivers.

A queue that consisted of thousands of members of the public to view the coffin yesterday evening was temporarily paused to allow the royals to take their places.

The new monarch and his family began their 10-minute vigil at the coffin at 19.46, with the Queen Consort and Countess of Wessex sitting on seats opposite.



Late Queen's children stand watch over her coffin as mourners file past (Reuters)

Prince Andrew kept his eyes closed for a period of time during what is known as the Vigil of Princes, while Princes Anne and Prince Edward had their eyes fixed towards the floor.

The King kept his hands joined and also looked towards the floor as members of the public filed past.

The Princess Royal's appearance has made her the first woman to be part of the vigil, which has until now been carried out by male-only members of the royal family.

Huge crowds had earlier thronged Edinburgh's Royal Mile to pay their respects as the Queen's coffin was taken in a solemn

procession from Holyroodhouse to St Giles' Cathedral, followed by senior royals.

Scotland's first minister Nicola Sturgeon, who earlier performed a short biblical reading at the thanskgiving service, said that Elizabeth, the "Queen of Scots", had been the "anchor of our nation", adding that Scotland "stands ready" Charles as he continues his mother's legacy of public service.

Following a two-minute silence, Charles said: "If I might paraphrase the words of the great Robert Burns, my dear mother was a friend of man, a friend of truth, a friend of age and guide of youth. Few hearts like hers, with virtue warmed, few heads with knowledge so informed."

As the King addressed the chamber at Holyrood, huge queues of well-wishers waiting to observe his mother's coffin before it begins the journey south to lie in state in London were already stretching across Edinburgh's George IV Bridge and into the Meadows, in a procession likely to continue through the night.

In London, mourners have already started to queue to visit Westminster Hall, where the Queen's body will lie in state from 5pm tomorrow until Monday.

Additional reporting by PA

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Trump not invited to the funeral, says White House



Queen Elizabeth II and President Donald Trump at Buckingham Palace in 2019 (AP)

ANDREW FEINBERG

IN WASHINGTON DC

President Joe Biden will not be bringing his predecessor – or any other former president – to accompany him when he travels to London for the funeral of Queen Elizabeth II, the White House has said.

In response to a question on whether Mr Biden would invite Donald Trump or any of the three other living ex-presidents to join an official delegation to the late sovereign's memorial service, White House press secretary Karine Jean-Pierre told reporters that the official invitation from the British government extended only to the incumbent president and his spouse, first lady Jill Biden.

Ms Jean-Pierre said the invitation was transmitted on Saturday as a diplomatic note from the protocol directorate of the UK Foreign and Commonwealth Office, with Mr Biden accepting it a day later.

“The invitation was extended to the US government for the president and the first lady only,” she said.

Foreign heads of state and their partners have been asked to arrive in the UK on commercial flights and have been told there will be no use of helicopters allowed to move them around London.

They have also been told that they will not be allowed to use official cars to attend the funeral on Monday 19 September but will instead be bussed to Westminster Abbey from a site in west London, according to *Politico*.

The late Queen's seven decades on the throne spanned the terms of 14 US presidents, from the 33th – Harry S Truman – to Mr Biden, the 46th. Of those 14, the only one she did not meet in person was the 36th, Lyndon Johnson.

Following the announcement of the Queen's death, Mr Trump, who was invited for a state visit to the UK in 2019, took to Truth Social to praise her “generous friendship, great wisdom, and wonderful sense of humor”, adding that she was a “beautiful lady”.

“Melania and I are deeply saddened to learn of the loss of Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II. Together with our family and fellow Americans, we send our sincere condolences to the Royal Family and the people of the United Kingdom during this time of great sorrow and grief,” he wrote.

The former president continued: “Melania and I will always cherish our time together with the Queen, and never forget Her Majesty’s generous friendship, great wisdom, and wonderful sense of humor. What a grand and beautiful lady she was—there was nobody like her!”

The former president visited the UK on three occasions during his time in office. In July 2018 he met with the Queen and Prime Minister Theresa May, returning in June of the following year for an official state visit and the 75th anniversary of the D-Day landings.

In December 2019 he returned for a Nato summit and again met with the Queen.

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Travel warnings as millions expected for lying in state



Capital's commuters urged to change working patterns (Emilio Morenatti/AP)

LAMIAT SABIN
JON STONE

Commuters may want to avoid London when Queen Elizabeth II lies in state this week because it will be “extremely busy”, the government said, as rail bosses warn of likely overcrowding.

The coffin of the Queen – who died at Balmoral aged 96 on Thursday afternoon – will be accessible to the public for five

days in Westminster Hall at the Palace of Westminster.

Millions of people are expected to pay their respects 24 hours a day from 5pm tomorrow until 6.30am on Monday 19 September, the day of the funeral.

No 10 has warned said that London will be “extremely busy” and that commuters may want to “change their working patterns accordingly”.

Yesterday, the Queen was lying in state in Edinburgh after her coffin was transported from the Palace of Holyroodhouse to St Giles’ Cathedral, which her children followed in a procession led by heir King Charles III, while crowds watched.

The official spokesman of prime minister Liz Truss did not say how many people are estimated to attend the London vigil, but Whitehall chiefs in charge of the logistics have said they expect hundreds of thousands of people a day.

Rail bosses yesterday also said they would do their best to keep things flowing, but warned of possible severe overcrowding at London Underground stations near Buckingham Palace over the next week.

Queuing systems are expected to be in operation at Green Park, which travellers have been advised to avoid if possible – with crowding also expected at Westminster, Victoria, Charing Cross, Embankment, Waterloo and other spots on the capital’s transport network.

Transport for London will be laying on a special 12 trains per hour service on the Elizabeth line on Sunday. The brand-new line is usually closed on Sundays for engineering and testing.

Various road closures around Westminster are also likely to disrupt traffic, with cycling also banned throughout the week on Birdcage Walk, Constitution Hill, The Mall, Marlborough Road and Horse Guards Road.

The closures will see Cycleway 3, London’s main cycle route blockaded for the second time this year, with TfL cycle hire stations also taken out of service at various points in

Westminster. Many buses that usually serve the area are expected to be put on diversion.

Sir Peter Hendy CBE, chair of Network Rail, said: “The transport industry is working hard to help people pay their respects in London and across the United Kingdom. Please make sure you check before you travel as we expect the road and transport networks to be busy.”



Historic march: Buckingham Palace saw the first changing of the Kings Guard in 70 years (Ministry of Defence)

Andy Byford, London’s transport commissioner, said: “At such an important and difficult time for the country, we are doing everything we can to ensure Londoners and visitors can pay their respects to Her Majesty the Queen and welcome His Majesty the King.

“We are working with our partners to keep our city moving smoothly and to ensure that everyone who needs to get around or is planning to attend the memorial events can do so safely.

“I would urge all customers to check before they travel, using the TfL website or TfL Go app, as while we’re planning to run a normal service, there may be short-notice changes and diversions as a result of the large number of people travelling and necessary road closures.”

The PM’s spokesman said: “At this point, we can’t be more specific on numbers. We do expect it to be extremely busy. I think for the Queen Mother it was around 200,000 people (who

attended). We expect (it) to be far more than that for this lying in state. But at this point, we can't be more specific into exact numbers."

Route of Queen's coffin from Buckingham Palace to Palace of Westminster



Route Queen's coffin will take to Palace of Westminster (PA)

When asked whether commuters who typically travel into London should work from home this week, the spokesman said some people "may wish to change their working patterns accordingly", but acknowledged "not everyone will have that ability".

The government's website warns that the queue of people to pay their respects to the Queen is "expected to be very long".

It adds: "You will need to stand for many hours, possibly overnight, with very little opportunity to sit down as the queue will be continuously moving. Please consider this before you decide to attend or bring children with you."

Asked if there will be any facilities for people who physically cannot queue for 30 hours, the PM's spokesman said:

"Obviously we want everyone to be able to attend regardless of whether they have disabilities. Our focus is on ensuring they have the information needed to make the decision about what's right for them.

"There will be toilet facilities, there will be first aid available, there will be the ability for people obviously to go and use toilets and return to queues and things like that."

At Westminster Hall, the closed coffin will be placed on a raised platform and will be covered in the royal standard flag with the orb and sceptre placed on top.

Official guidance says that the queue will move constantly and that there will be few chances for attendees to stop. People are advised to “dress appropriately” and to be silent inside the parliamentary estate.

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‘An assault on democracy’

Outcry as anti-royal protesters targeted by the police



A woman holding an ‘abolish monarchy’ sign at a proclamation ceremony for King Charles was arrested in Edinburgh on Sunday (PA)

LIZZIE DEARDEN
HOME AFFAIRS EDITOR

A woman who held an “abolish monarchy” sign at a proclamation ceremony for King Charles III in Edinburgh has

been charged with a criminal offence a part of a series of arrests that have alarmed human rights groups.

A heckler who shouted at Prince Andrew as the Queen's funeral cortege passed through Edinburgh's Royal Mile yesterday is among the protesters and republican activists who have been targeted by police. A barrister was also questioned by an officer after holding up a "blank piece of paper" in Parliament Square. A demonstrator arrested in Oxford called the response an "outrageous assault on democracy" and accused police of exercising broad powers in a "heavy-handed and punitive way".

At least two arrests were made at proclamation ceremonies on Sunday, while police were seen moving a woman holding a placard saying "not my king" near the Houses of Parliament yesterday morning. Asked about the incidents in a daily press conference, the prime minister's official spokesperson said: "This is a period of national mourning for the vast vast majority of the country, but the fundamental right to protest remains the keystone of our democracy."

Police Scotland said the 22-year-old woman arrested outside St Giles' Cathedral in Edinburgh on Sunday had been arrested for "breach of the peace". The woman was holding a sign reading "fuck imperialism, abolish monarchy", but the sign is not understood to be the reason for her arrest. She has been charged under a 2010 law that covers behaviour "likely to cause a reasonable person to suffer fear or alarm" and will appear at Edinburgh Sheriff Court on 30 September.

In Oxford, a man was arrested under the Public Order Act for alleged behaviour causing "harassment, alarm or distress" on Sunday. Symon Hill, 45, told *The Independent* he called out "who elected him?" when Charles III was officially proclaimed king. "I remained quiet in the first part of the proclamation, concerning the death of Elizabeth," he added in his blog. "I doubt most of the people in the crowd even heard me. Two or three people near me told me to shut up. I didn't insult them or attack them personally, but responded by saying that a head of state was being imposed on us without our consent."

Mr Hill said he was initially “told to be quiet” by security guards, before police officers approached, arrested and handcuffed him. He called the incident an “outrageous assault on democracy” and that he did not believe anyone could have felt harassed or distressed by his actions, adding: “The police abused their powers to arrest someone who voiced some mild opposition to a head of state being appointed undemocratically.”



A republican protester outside St Giles Cathedral (AP)

Mr Hill said officers initially told him he was arrested under the controversial new Police, Crime, Sentencing and Courts Act, which enabled police to ban single-person protests and those deemed too noisy. But a spokesperson for Thames Valley Police said he was arrested under section 5 of the Public Order Act, which contains an offence of using threatening or abusive words or behaviour that could cause bystanders “harassment, alarm or distress”.

A statement said: “A 45-year-old man was arrested in connection with a disturbance that was caused during the county proclamation ceremony of King Charles III in Oxford. He has subsequently been de-arrested and is engaging with us voluntarily as we investigate a public order offence.”

Other republican protesters holding signs at proclamation events were not arrested, including a man holding a “republic” banner in Edinburgh and women holding “not our king” and

“colonial subjugation of the Welsh people” banners outside Cardiff Castle on Sunday.

Yesterday morning, police were seen moving a woman away from the area outside the Houses of Parliament after she held up a “not my king” sign during a ceremony with MPs and peers in the House of Lords. The Metropolitan Police said the protester was not arrested and had been asked to move away from the Carriage Gates entrance “in order to facilitate vehicle access and egress through the gates”, where a police officer was murdered during the 2017 Westminster terror attack.

Later in the day, a police officer demanded a barrister’s details after he held up a blank piece of paper in Parliament Square, suggesting that “offending someone” with a message such as “not my king” may amount to a crime.

The campaign Republic called for an “open and free debate” on the future of the monarchy, saying many people objected to the accession of Charles III “without debate or consent”.

Spokesperson Graham Smith added: “We are deeply concerned to see people being arrested for peaceful protest. The police, media and politicians all need to understand that the accession is a contentious event and people have the right to speak up and be heard.”

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King promises to uphold ‘parliamentary traditions’



Charles addresses MPs and peers at Westminster Hall in London yesterday (PA)

ADAM FORREST

King Charles III has vowed to uphold the nation’s “vital parliamentary traditions” in his first visit to parliament as the new monarch following the death of his mother Queen Elizabeth II.

“I cannot help but feel the weight of history which surrounds us and which reminds [us] of the vital parliamentary traditions,” said the new King.

Referring to parliament as “the living and breathing instrument of our democracy”, he said the Queen had pledged to maintain “the precious principles of constitutional government that lie at the heart of our nation”.

Charles added: “This vow she kept with unsurpassed devotion. She set an example of selfless duty, which with God’s help and your counsels I am resolved faithfully to follow.”

Commons speaker Sir Lindsay Hoyle expressed MPs’ “heartfelt sympathy” with the King for the loss of the Queen, saying it was a loss felt by the nation, Commonwealth and the world.



Commons speaker Sir Lindsay Hoyle said the Queen had been a ‘symbol of stability’ (UK Parliament/Reuters)

Sir Lindsay described the late sovereign as a “symbol of stability in an ever-changing world” – and said MPs knew that the King held “the greatest respect” for parliamentary government.

Lords speaker Lord McFall paid tribute to the “treasured” Queen. Pledging peers’ loyalty to Charles and said “we are proud and indeed humbled to welcome you as our King”.

The King thanked MPs and peers, saying: “I am deeply grateful for the addresses of condolence.” He said the addresses “touchingly encompass what our late sovereign, my beloved mother the Queen, meant to us all”.

Charles again reached for Shakespeare as he paid tribute to the Queen, after quoting from the play *Hamlet* in his address to the nation. “As Shakespeare says of the earlier Queen Elizabeth, she was ‘a pattern to all princes living’.”

The ceremony was attended by MPs – including the new prime minister Liz Truss – peers and members from the legislatures of Northern Ireland, Scotland and Wales, taking place in the oldest part of parliament, Westminster Hall.

Ms Truss supported the King by joining him in Scotland later yesterday. She will join him at services in Northern Ireland and Wales later this week as part of the 10-day mourning period.



Liz Truss and Keir Starmer were in attendance (AFP/Getty)

The prime minister’s official spokesperson said Ms Truss believed it was “important to be present” at the services, but No 10 later pushed back against suggestions the PM was accompanying Charles “on tour”.

Charles will lead the royal family in a poignant procession behind the coffin of his mother when it travels to an Edinburgh cathedral this afternoon to allow the public to pay their respects.

The Queen will be taken to St Giles’ Cathedral where her family will attend a service of thanksgiving for her life. Charles will later meet Scotland’s first minister Nicola Sturgeon and receive a motion of condolence at the Scottish parliament.

It comes as Prince Harry makes his first public comment since her death, paying an emotional tribute to his “granny” and saying she would be sorely missed not just by the family, but the world over.

And mourners coming to London to pay their respects to the Queen as she lies in state in Westminster Hall from tomorrow have been warned to expect exceptionally long queues and wait times.

Though a constitutional monarch must remain politically neutral, Charles’s role will consist of holding regular audiences with the PM and assenting to bills passed by parliament. Royal Assent has not been refused since 1707.

The King has vowed to step back from the “issues” he has campaigned on in his previous role. David Cameron, former Tory PM, has said he thought it was “entirely right” for Charles to have written to ministers with his views when he was the Prince of Wales.



The King and the Queen Consort leave after their visit to parliament (AFP/ Getty)

Speaking to the BBC, Mr Cameron said the so-called “spider memos” of letters to ministers on various issues from herbal medicine to badger culls – which were released in 2015 after a lengthy legal battle – should have stayed private.

“I never felt he tried to influence me improperly in any way,” he told the *Sunday with Laura Kuenssberg* programme. “I think the

heir to the throne has a perfect right to have an interest in issues like the environment, preserving wildlife, his interest in the built environment.”

Mr Cameron added: “I think it is entirely right that the heir to the throne can discuss things with politicians. Why not? I don’t think there should be any public concern about that, and my view is the letters should have remained private.”

Former Labour prime minister Gordon Brown said Britain could become more like a “Scandinavian monarchy” – saying he expected Charles to perform his duties in a less formal way as part of a slimmed-down royal family.

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Parliament transforms into land of pomp and deference



Hall of fame: row after row of MPs could not have looked more starstruck (AP)

TOM PECK

“King’s bodyguard! SLOOOOOWWWW. MARCH!” And in they marched, up the aisle of Westminster Hall, under the oak-beamed roof and in the direction of the two rather throne-like chairs that had been placed on the concrete steps.

The King’s bodyguard is about 12 men, none of whom look to be significantly younger than the King himself. They wear hats with

great white feathery plumes poking out the top of them and they carry little axes with ornate handles.

They also, at least on this evidence, don't do a lot of guarding of the King's body. The trumpets played and they slow-marched up, down and around Westminster Hall for a fair while before the King himself arrived and his demonstrably unguarded body quietly stepped out of the Bentley and strolled up the aisle. When things have calmed down a bit, His Majesty King Charles III might wish to put a call into Kevin Costner, certainly now that Dennis Waterman's services are unavailable.

The Presentation of Addresses by both Houses of Parliament is a longstanding tradition for any new monarch. Though as with quite a few traditions that are currently underway, there are precious few people around who can recall them having happened before.

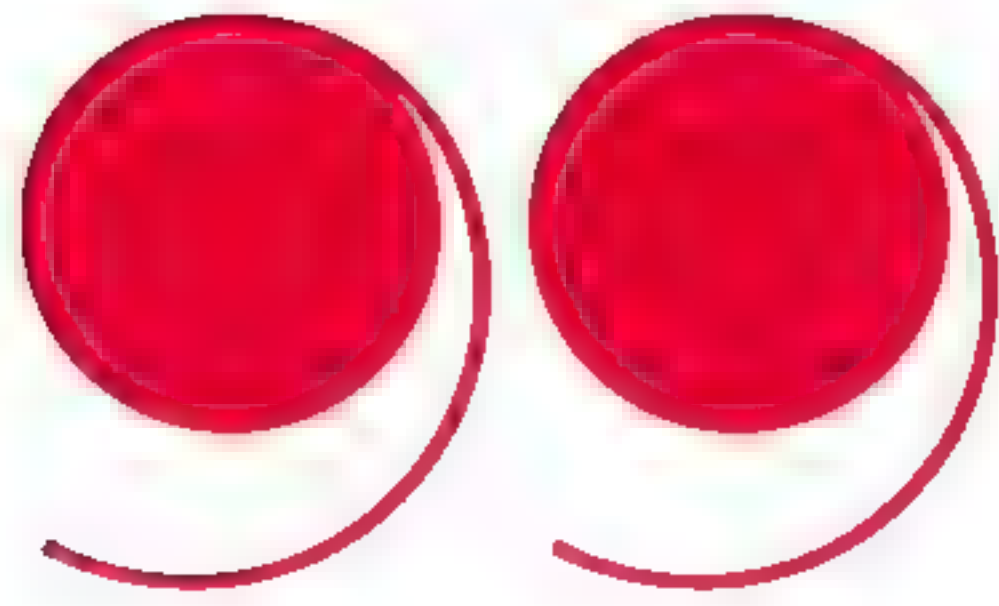
Westminster Hall is a great, cavernous, draughty place. Every so often, all MPs and peers gather there to be spoken to by some visiting head of state of serious importance. Obama's done it, so has Charles de Gaulle. And now Charles III.

There was rather more pomp than there was splendour, in the sense that it was a visual spectacle rather more than an oratory one. That everyone had gathered mattered far more than what it was they had actually gathered for.

Viewers of the BBC broadcast were told of the room's great history. Of how the Queen Mother had laid in state there, and so would the Queen herself, in a couple of days' time. There was not so much mention of what happened to King Charles's royal namesake but two, Charles I, in this room, which is that he was tried, sentenced to death and then, a short walk up the road, executed on a public balcony.



Liz Truss moved towards the exit as if moving towards the platform for a 300ft bungee jump



Which is rather more relevant than it may seem. Eleven years later, as is well known, the British people had thought better of their act of violent republicanism, and politely asked the executed man's son if he wouldn't mind coming back. He agreed, but there were protracted negotiations first, and from these negotiations came all sorts of liberties and rights, especially for the practising of religion, and arguably, in some form or another, the right to stand in a street in Edinburgh and protest for the abolition of the monarchy, an act for which a 22-year-old woman was arrested over the weekend.

It is also well understood that these days we have a constitutional monarchy, stripped of all power and left in place as a kind of living ornament. Certain Westminster rituals, like the slamming of the Commons door in Black Rod's face at the state opening of parliament, are a deliberate symbolic reminder of who is in charge. And yet, on this auspicious morning in Westminster, one could scarcely imagine a show more deferent. Row after row of MPs could hardly have looked more thrilled to be there, or more starstruck.

The only line of note came from the King himself. Speaking of his now late mother, he said: "As Shakespeare says of the earlier Queen Elizabeth, she was 'a pattern to all princes living.'" It's easy to be confused, but this is not from one of Shakespeare's

histories, but rather some contemporary commentary on his own monarch.

And with that he was off again, wandering back out the aisle, stopping to wish “good morning” to everyone with an aisle seat. The only person he paused to chat with for longer than a few seconds was Mark Francois.

Behind him came Keir Starmer and the new prime minister, Liz Truss, wearing a mask of almost unimaginable terror. She moved towards the exit as if moving towards the platform for a 300ft bungee jump. You could have clanged a pair of cymbals an inch from her ears and she wouldn’t have so much as flinched.

A while later, the bodyguard reassembled and slow-marched its way out. It looked to be turning left out of the grand entrance, quite possibly to the visitors’ cafe for a well-earned cup of tea and a slice of Victoria sponge.

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Queen's death sparks new questions in ex-colonies



The monarch's legacy has been widely discussed in Commonwealth nations (Getty)

NADINE WHITE

RACE CORRESPONDENT

The Queen's death sent ripples of sadness through the world, but the monarchy's complex legacy in the context of colonialism

and the British empire has brought varied responses from some former British colonies.

At her death, the Queen was head of state of not only the United Kingdom but also of Australia, the Bahamas, Belize, Canada, Grenada, Jamaica, New Zealand, Papua New Guinea, Saint Lucia, Saint Kitts and Nevis, Tuvalu, the Solomon Islands, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, and Antigua and Barbuda.

Speaking to *The Independent* about Queen Elizabeth II's legacy, Jah Mickey Bowe, vice chair of the House of Rastafari in the Bahamas, explained that there was mixed reaction to news of the monarch's death last Thursday, aged 96.

He said: "We don't see how the celebration of our oppressors helps us any; the royal family should apologise for slavery and bring reparations to all of the Commonwealth countries. King Charles III will meet more of those demands on his desk in the near future."

Those in the Bahamas openly mourning the Queen are migrants from the UK, politicians and older citizens raised under British rule, according to Mr Bowe, with the younger generations largely indifferent.



The Queen's funeral will be held on Monday (Sky News)

"We, in the Bahamas, have seen very few examples of how the monarchy benefits our country in any aspect. The funniest thing

to me is, the generation who fought against British rule and lobbied for independence are the same ones mourning her passing. But my generation, born after independence in 1973, is not mourning. She's 96; did you expect her to live forever? It's not a case of not having compassion but many of us understand that it was going to happen and have quickly moved on."

Six countries have already expressed a desire to rid themselves of the British monarch as head of state. It follows the disastrous jubilee tours earlier this year undertaken by the Prince and Princess of Wales, William and Kate, then Prince Edward and Sophie, the countess of Wessex. There was a consensus that some leaders were waiting until after the Queen's death to accelerate their plans to move to a republic, out of respect for the long-serving monarch.

Just days ago, the prime minister of Antigua and Barbuda, Gaston Browne, announced his intention to call for a referendum on the country becoming a republic within three years. It is an official policy of Caribbean countries (Caricom) that were former colonies to lobby Britain for reparations for its involvement in transatlantic slavery. The Queen's death has done little to quell that feeling and it remains a key demand. However, deference and reverence are the typical responses among those at the helm of world nations – despite many former colonies signalling intentions to divorce the monarchy within the past year alone.

In Kenya people have retained anger at British colonial crimes for which there has been no apology, compensation, or atonement and recalled periods of brutal rape, murder, theft and destruction wreaked upon the country, and wider continent, through hostilities such as the Mau Mau rebellion.

Economic Freedom Fighters (EFF), a group that champions policies in South Africa, said in a statement after the Queen's death: "We do not mourn the death of Elizabeth because to us her death is a reminder of a very tragic period in this country and Africa's history." A huge diamond the British royal family acquired from colonial South Africa in 1905, was repeatedly requested back from the Queen but was never returned.

The nations of Belize, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines and Grenada have declared periods of mourning following the Queen's death. Jomo Thomas, chair of St Vincent and the Grenadines reparations committee, told *The Independent*: "There is no visible reaction to the Queen's death here. To the extent there is any reaction, it is on social media."



Prince William meets with Jamaica's PM Andrew Holness on a royal tour of the Caribbean in March (PA)

The government of Jamaica declared a period of mourning from 8 to 19 September, despite having already begun the process of planning to remove the Queen as head of state. News of the mourning period has garnered widespread criticism across the diaspora, not least from leading entertainer and comedian Oliver Samuels. Speaking in a video posted to social media, Mr Samuels said: "The Queen has passed on and may her soul rest in peace but, listen, after 60 years of independence, do you think any independent nations within the Caribbean should be talking about having 10 days of mourning? Mourning for what? In our desperation, I don't remember the Queen ever seeing it fit to help us.

"I still cannot understand why the Queen is the head of Jamaica and we have a governor-general when we claim to be independent. Let us, as Jamaicans, and other Caribbean people be like [Barbados] prime minister, Mia Mottley, let us shed the vestiges of the monarchy and take our destinies into our hands."

Asked in a radio interview on Friday, if the Queen's death meant Australia was closer to being a republic, the prime minister Anthony Albanese said it was not the time to talk about it.

“Today's a day for one issue and one issue only, which is to pay tribute to Queen Elizabeth II,” he replied. New Zealand has paid tribute to the “much-loved sovereign” while prime minister Jacinda Ardern said that her government will not be pursuing any moves toward changing the country to a republic any time soon.

Canada's prime minister Justin Trudeau issued a statement describing the Queen as “a constant presence in our lives”. “Her service to Canadians will forever remain an important part of our country's history,” he wrote.

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What next for the King and his Commonwealth realms?



King Charles III and the Queen Consort arrive in Edinburgh yesterday to attend a thanksgiving service and a family vigil (AFP/Getty)

SEAN O'GRADY

It almost seems like poor taste. No sooner had the men in tights and tabards proclaimed Charles III the rightful king of his overseas realms and territories than the prime minister of one of the smaller ones, Antigua and Barbuda, suggested that the independent nation would hold a vote on whether to become a republic following the death of Queen Elizabeth II.

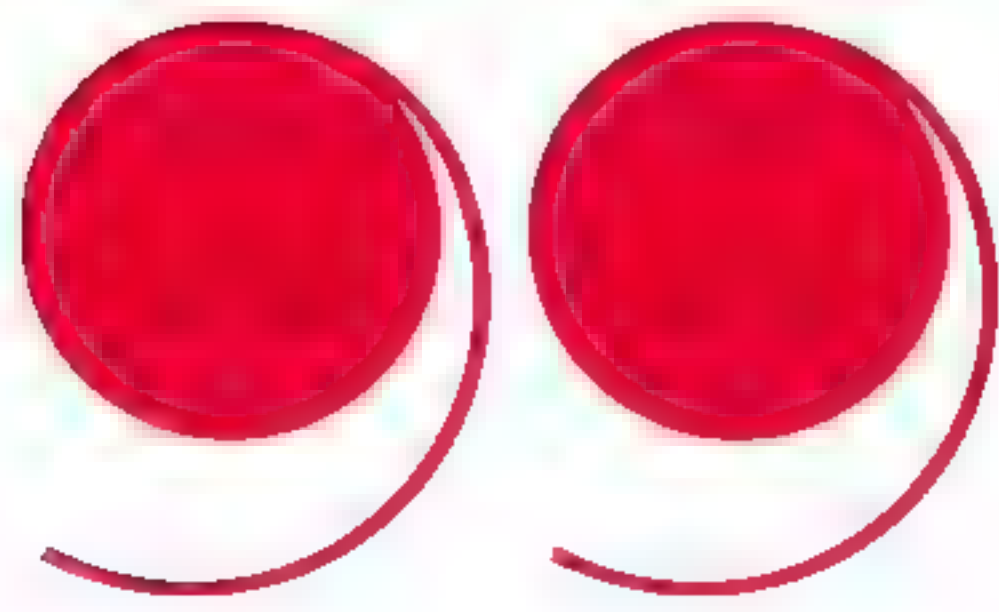
Gaston Browne said a referendum could take place within three years, but – to sighs of relief at the palace – he emphasised that the move was “not an act of hostility”, and that it wasn’t a big issue in the Caribbean state. “I think most people haven’t even bothered to think about it,” he said. No doubt that is true of the 83,000 inhabitants of those beautiful islands; but the new King and his entourage have probably fretted about it all the same.

There was better news from other parts. Jacinda Ardern, prime minister of New Zealand and possibly the most progressive leader on the planet, dismissed the idea of a similar move “any time soon”, though she thinks her country will cut the link in her lifetime. The lack of urgency was echoed by the newish prime minister of Australia, Anthony Albanese, who has ruled out a referendum in his first term. “The bigger questions about our constitution are not ones for this current period,” he said.

Mr Albanese is personally committed to ending the monarchy in Australia, but he and his fellow campaigners remain stymied by disagreements on how the replacement head of state should be elected or selected; the same differences stymied the country’s last attempt to move away from the House of Windsor back in 1999, when the proposal was rejected by about 55 per cent to 45 per cent. Canada is even less keen to alter its constitution. Jamaica has already announced moves towards a republic, though, and Barbados was the latest to do so, earlier this year.



Some might have felt that the monarchy improved political stability as they began life as newly independent nations, but perhaps find it less relevant now



Although Charles is firmly ensconced as head of the Commonwealth – which overwhelmingly comprises republics – he is evidently much less securely attached to the remaining overseas realms. Incongruously, this 73-year-old, quintessentially English aristocrat is also King of Antigua and Barbuda, Australia, the Bahamas, Belize, Canada, Grenada, Jamaica, New Zealand, Papua New Guinea, Saint Kitts and Nevis, Saint Lucia, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, Solomon Islands, and Tuvalu (that's 14, not including Great Britain).

Many of these he has barely visited, let alone lived in – with a term at a school in Australia when he was a boy being the only concession. At this age, he and his consort Camilla may not be able to undertake many gruelling Commonwealth tours, which is doubly unfortunate given that the Queen gave them up some years previously. It doesn't seem likely that they'll be able to send Prince Harry and Meghan, Duchess of Sussex, who were notable successes, which leaves the new Prince and Princess of Wales. However, their recent outings in the Bahamas, Belize and Jamaica weren't an unalloyed triumph.

This is not good for the security of the monarchy in these faraway places, nor for the institution of the Commonwealth more widely. Arguably it is more important post-Brexit, and two

new nations with slim links to the British empire have recently joined – Togo and Gabon, both francophone republics. But the Commonwealth would survive even if all its members were republics, including the UK.

There is also the sense in which a change of monarch seems a natural point at which to reassess national identities. Many of these realms have been independent for many decades. The Queen once “ruled” them as colonies, and some might have felt that the monarchy improved political stability as they began life as newly independent nations, but perhaps find it less relevant now. The last of Charles’s realms to gain independence was St Kitts and Nevis, in 1983. They’re all quite grown up these days.

It’s up to the nations concerned, as the Queen always indicated. But, for what it’s worth, it’s hard to believe that the Commonwealth means as much to King Charles as it did to his mother, who saw it as central to her role, and as the fulfilment of a project her father had dedicated himself to, especially after the independence of India and Pakistan in 1947. There is every chance that distance and the passage of time will continue to fray the traditional links between the British crown and its overseas realms.

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Why King Charles will not foot an inheritance tax bill



An 'understanding' on royal taxation was agreed with the government in 1993 (Reuters)

JON STONE

POLICY CORRESPONDENT

As well as inheriting the throne from his mother, King Charles is also in line to receive much of her private wealth.

On top of official crown property, Queen Elizabeth amassed tens of millions of pounds in her own cash and assets – much of it from art and racehorses.

Most people pay 40 per cent inheritance tax on anything they inherit over a £325,000 threshold – meaning the monarchy would be on the hook for millions and the Treasury would be in for a windfall.

Yet King Charles is not liable for a penny due to a deal negotiated between the crown and John Major's government in 1993, effectively exempting the monarch in situations like this.

How much does Charles inherit from the Queen?

In 2011 *The Sunday Times* Rich List estimated that the Queen's private fortune was £370m. But the exact nature of what Charles will be getting is not public because monarchs' wills are sealed for decades after their death.

The new King is definitely at least in line to take over the ownership of the Queen's private estate, the Duchy of Lancaster. This estate, which is valued at more than £650m as of March 2022, will pay him an income of around £24m, as it did his mother. It plays a similar role to that of the Duchy of Cornwall, which he enjoyed as Prince of Wales and will pass on to his son.

What is this tax deal with the government?

The deal confirming the exemption of the monarchy from inheritance tax was never written into law, but was part of a more informal "memorandum of understanding" between the government and the palace. Its official name is the "Memorandum of Understanding on Royal Taxation".

It makes fascinating reading for anyone interested in the tax affairs of the monarchy. The inheritance section of the memorandum begins by noting that some royal assets are held by the Queen as "as Sovereign rather than as a private individual" and that "it would clearly be inappropriate for inheritance tax to be paid in respect of such assets".



Royal Collection: The Queen shows King Willem-Alexander of the Netherlands (second right) and Queen Maxima some of the treasures (AFP/Getty)

Assets of this type include official residences such as Buckingham Palace, the Royal Archives, the Royal Collection of paintings and other works of art.

They are not really the King or Queen's personal property, but that of the crown and are thus not subject to inheritance tax.

But what about private property and wealth?

The next paragraph of the memorandum also exempts the monarch's private property from inheritance tax, when it is being passed down as inheritance to the next sovereign.

It says: "In relation to assets which can properly be regarded as private, the arrangements provide that inheritance tax will not be paid on gifts or bequests from one Sovereign to the next, but will be payable on gifts and bequests to anyone else."

This means that anything Charles inherits from Queen Elizabeth is not subject to inheritance tax.

The memorandum also says that "tax will also not be payable on assets passing to the Sovereign on the death of a consort of a former Sovereign" – an exemption that would have applied to Prince Philip's assets.

What is the justification for this?

The document gives two justifications: first, it says that the nature of the monarch's role means that it is important for them to have "sufficient private resources". Second, it notes that some of the monarch's private assets are also used for official functions.

As the memorandum puts it: "The reasons for not taxing assets passing to the next Sovereign are that private assets such as Sandringham and Balmoral have official as well as private use, and that the Monarchy as an institution needs sufficient private resources to enable it to continue to perform its traditional role in national life, and to have a degree of financial independence from the Government of the day."



Private asset: People leave flowers at the gate of the Queen's prized Sandringham estate (Reuters)

It should be noted that while only some of the monarch's assets have "official as well as private" uses, all of them are exempt from inheritance tax – whether it is Sandringham House or a racehorse.

Nevertheless, the memorandum says that "the government believes that the arrangements set out in the attached memorandum of understanding are fair and appropriate, taking account as necessary of the unique circumstances of the monarchy".

Does the Queen legally have to pay taxes at all?

The wider context of the inheritance tax memorandum is that the monarchy is not legally required to pay income tax, capital gains tax or inheritance tax at all – because the relevant acts of parliament do not apply to them.

However, the sovereign pays income and capital gains tax on a “voluntary basis” and inheritance tax on the basis described in the memorandum, a basis that did not include the monarch dying and passing their wealth onto the next monarch.

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Met officer who shot dead unarmed man is suspended



Chris Kaba was killed after a police car chase in southwest London (PA)

LAMIAT SABIN

The Metropolitan Police has suspended a firearms officer who shot dead an unarmed Black man in southwest London last week. Chris Kaba, 24, was months away from becoming a

husband and a father when he was killed in a chase involving armed officers.

The police watchdog, the Independent Office for Police Conduct (IOPC), had announced that it has launched a murder investigation into his death.

It said armed officers had pursued Kaba after an automatic number plate recognition camera indicated that the vehicle he was driving was linked to a firearms incident in the previous days.

Kaba's Audi was hemmed in by two police vehicles in Kirkstall Gardens, Streatham Hill, and one round was fired from a police weapon.

The officer who fired the bullet that killed Kaba has been suspended, the Met Police announced a week after the incident.

It comes after Kaba's family and friends demanded that the officer be immediately suspended from duty.

Scotland Yard initially removed the officer from frontline duties but had allowed him to carry on working.

The Met's assistant commissioner Amanda Pearson said yesterday evening: "Following the death of Chris Kaba, the firearms officer involved has been suspended from duty.

"This decision has been reached following careful consideration of a number of factors, including the significant impact on public confidence, and in light of the Independent Office for Police Conduct announcing a homicide investigation.

"Our thoughts and sympathies remain with Mr Kaba's family and friends. We understand how concerned communities are, particularly Black communities, and thank those who are working closely with our local officers.

"We are actively supporting the IOPC investigation and would ask those with information that could be useful in establishing what happened to contact the IOPC directly to maintain the independence of their investigation."

She continued: “The decision to suspend the officer does not determine the outcome of the IOPC investigation. Firearms officers serve to protect the public and know that on the rare occasions when they discharge their weapons, they will face intense scrutiny. I know this development will have a significant impact on the officer and colleagues.”

Mayor of London Sadiq Khan welcomed the Met’s decision to suspend the officer. He said: “I welcome this decision and am in regular contact with the IOPC and the new commissioner. My thoughts remain with Chris Kaba’s loved ones at this intensely difficult time as the IOPC continue their independent homicide investigation.”

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‘Mini-Budget’ and speech to UN on Truss agenda



Official business will begin in earnest for the new prime minister after the Queen’s funeral on Monday (AFP/Getty)

ROB MERRICK

DEPUTY POLITICAL EDITOR

Liz Truss is preparing to hit the ground running immediately after the Queen’s funeral, with a speech at the United Nations and a tax-slashing “mini-Budget” both due to take place next week.

Parliament could also resume as early as next Wednesday (21 September) – two days after world leaders gather at Westminster Abbey for the funeral of the late monarch – as official business returns to what Downing Street described as “more normal”.

No 10 says it does not need to pass legislation to enact the energy price freeze that, from 1 October, will cap average annual household bills at £2,500 until 2024. But the new prime minister won the Tory leadership race on a promise to slash taxes by around £30bn by reversing the national insurance rise and scrapping the planned hike in corporation tax.

Ms Truss downgraded her planned emergency Budget, which was pencilled in for next week, to a “fiscal event” in order to avoid scrutiny by the Office for Budget Responsibility.

She is expected to fly to New York for the UN leaders’ meeting as early as Monday evening, within hours of the funeral, returning to the UK late on Wednesday or early on Thursday. That would allow the mini-Budget to be held on Thursday next week, before parliament breaks up again for the Labour and Conservative Party conferences.

“We are still planning to deliver a fiscal event this month,” the prime minister’s spokesperson told reporters, adding that it would not be unveiled during the Labour conference week, which begins on 25 September.

The chancellor, Kwasi Kwarteng, is also under fierce pressure to unveil the cost of the energy price freeze – something that the government faced criticism for failing to do last week. The £100bn-plus bill will be met through much higher government borrowing, after Ms Truss rejected Labour calls for a beefed-up windfall tax on the excess profits of energy companies.

Some legislation might be needed to push through the package of support for businesses, but there is not yet a date for this to be provided. In addition, plans to rescue the NHS from its deepening crisis were due to be unveiled this week, but this has been postponed because of the national period of mourning.

The spokesperson declined to comment on Ukraine's surprise defeat of Russian forces in the east of the country, or on whether there had been a fresh call for military aid, while the mourning continues. However, the government will meet this Thursday's deadline to respond to the EU's seven legal actions against the UK for failing to implement border checks agreed in the Northern Ireland protocol.

The crisis is approaching another tipping point after the EU reactivated the infringement proceedings concerning the bill currently before parliament – the Northern Ireland Protocol Bill – which provides for the tearing up of the protocol. Ms Truss must decide whether to agree to talks or ask for further time to respond to the legal threat, having insisted she will not back down over the bill.

The prime minister has backed away from suggestions that she would escalate the dispute by triggering Article 16 of the protocol, but the government has launched its own legal action over the block that prevents Britain from taking part in Horizon and other EU science programmes.

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Truss warned over cost of two-year energy freeze



IFS chief urges prime minister not to extend ‘incredibly expensive’ plans beyond this winter (PA)

ROB MERRICK

The energy price freeze must be replaced by “something better next winter” because it will cost up to £150bn, a leading economist has warned Liz Truss.

Paul Johnson, the head of the Institute for Fiscal Studies (IFS), urged the prime minister to ditch plans to hold down everyone’s bills until 2024 and find a smarter solution to the crisis.

The plea comes after fierce criticism of the government for failing to reveal the expected cost of a two-year freeze ahead of an expected “mini-Budget” next week. Mr Johnson called that decision “extraordinary”, saying: “This could actually turn out to be the biggest single fiscal announcement in my lifetime, because this could cost £150bn.”

He agreed the freeze “might be necessary” for this winter, but warned: “It’s incredibly expensive. It’s totally untargeted. It gives large amounts of money to people who don’t need it, and it means that we’re not facing the price signal that there is less gas out there. And yet, we’re being massively subsidised to use gas.”

Mr Johnson told Times Radio: “One of the things that I really hope is that they’ve got teams of people working next year on thinking of something better for next winter.” Ms Truss carried out a spectacular U-turn, just two days into her premiership, by announcing average annual household bills will be frozen at £2,500 until 2024.

They were set to rise to £3,549 from next month and to more than £5,000 next year – threatening millions of people with bills they would be unable to pay. Full details of how the “energy price guarantee” will work are yet to emerge, as the announcement was immediately drowned out by the death of the Queen.

The government will meet the cost – through a leap in borrowing – of capping the amount energy companies can charge customers for one unit of gas. A £400 rebate on all bills announced earlier this year has been retained, cutting £66 every month from October until April, and green levies suspended, saving the average household about £150 a year. The Resolution Foundation think tank has put the price tag at £120bn – the bill just to bail out households, with separate tens of billion needed to rescue businesses.

Although it is called a “guarantee”, people in large or draughty homes will inevitably pay significantly more. Ms Truss downgraded her planned emergency budget to a “fiscal event” –

to avoid scrutiny by the Office for Budget Responsibility (OBR)
– which was pencilled in for next week.

She was expected to fly to New York for the UN leader's meeting as early as Monday night, within hours of the Queen's funeral, returning to the UK late tomorrow or early Thursday. That would allow the mini-Budget to be held on Thursday next week, before parliament breaks up again for the Labour and Conservative party conferences.

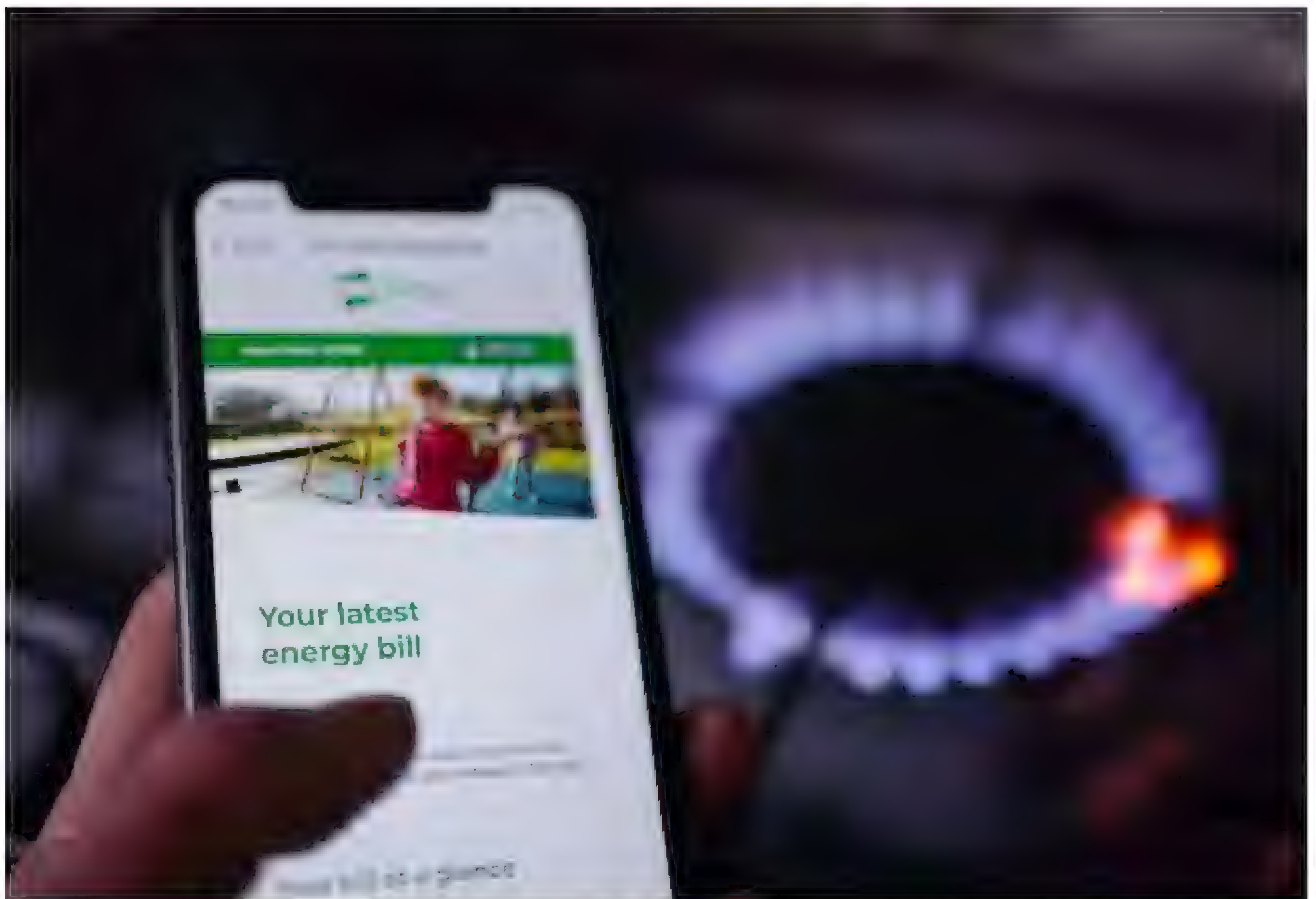
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Household energy debt hits £2.1bn as price hike looms



The government has promised to cap prices at £2,500, but many people are already in debt (PA)

ADAM FORREST

Britons struggling to afford to heat their homes and keep the lights on have accumulated more than £2bn in energy bill debt, the latest annual figures show. Gas and electricity bill arrears rocketed by just over a third, from £1.5bn to £2.1bn, in the year to April 2022 – just before the spring price-cap rise kicked in.

Liz Truss has promised to cap annual household energy bills at £2,500 for two years, after setting out a plan for the government to subsidise the big suppliers' increased wholesale costs. But the Debt Justice campaign group – who produced the analysis based on the latest data from Ofgem – said many people were struggling to cope with already “astronomical” bills on top of rising living costs.

Calling for Ms Truss to “write off” existing energy debt, executive director Heidi Chow said: “The government cannot afford to ignore record levels of energy debt that will drive even more poverty and hardship for years to come.” The Debt Justice campaigner added: “Liz Truss’s plans must include action to cap energy prices and write off energy debt, to give everyone a fighting chance of keeping the lights on this winter.”

The energy price cap was raised by 54 per cent in April to £1,971, pushing up energy costs over the summer and adding to the pressure on families struggling to cope with soaring inflation. Though Ms Truss has vowed to cap October’s price rise until 2024 and maintain the £400 discount promised for all UK households, annual energy bills will still rise 26 per cent when they are allowed to go up to £2,500 next month.

Debt Justice has joined Labour and the Liberal Democrats in calling on the government to freeze current energy prices, and to expand the windfall tax on the big energy producers, arguing that this could enable the government to write off household debts.

Louisa, a 39-year-old from south London, said she was already paying back over £2,000 of gas debt. “At this rate it will take another four years to pay it off,” she added. She said her family’s electricity costs had jumped from £40 a month to around £60 to £70 in recent months. “I’m having sleepless nights. My anxiety gets worse every time my bills are due, as I fear I won’t be able to make ends meet,” she said. “A £100 grocery shop now only lasts us one week, when it used to last two. Writing off this gas debt would make a real difference to my family this winter.”

Ms Truss has said she will not “give in” to opposition calls for a new windfall tax, with the estimated £100bn cost of extending the £2,500 price cap expected to be met mostly through extra borrowing. No 10 has said it does not believe the 10-day mourning period for the Queen will have any impact on the implementation of the policy, since officials will continue to work on the details and MPs are not required to pass legislation.

But chancellor Kwasi Kwarteng has only a narrow window to reveal the details of the package, between the Queen’s funeral on 19 September and the beginning of conference recess on 22 September. The prime minister’s official spokesperson suggested that a statement setting out the fiscal details would be given next week, telling reporters: “We are still planning to deliver a fiscal event this month.”

It is not believed that legislation needs to be passed in order to bring the new energy price guarantee into effect for households, although businesses are still facing a wait for details about the promise of “equivalent” support for a six-month period. “There isn’t a date set for the business support element of the guarantee. Obviously we’re working that through. It hasn’t been impacted by the mourning period, as I understand,” the PM’s spokesperson said.

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England's oldest surviving church identified in Kent



St Pancras Church in St Augustine's Abbey, Canterbury (Shutterstock/PhotoFires)

DAVID KEYS

ARCHAEOLOGY CORRESPONDENT

England's oldest surviving church has been identified by archaeologists. New evidence reveals that the Chapel of St

Pancras in Canterbury was built, consecrated and used by St Augustine, head of the papal mission to Kent in 597.

Dating from around AD600 and now in ruins, it was almost certainly the first purpose-built place of Christian worship constructed in Anglo-Saxon England. The discovery pinpoints the place where public Christian worship was re-established in what is now eastern and southern England, after a gap of up to 150 years – arguably one of the most pivotal moments in English history.

Christianity in modern England evolved out of Augustine's mission – and the design of the first purpose-built public church perhaps served as a prototype for most subsequent ecclesiastical buildings up until the present day. Christianity was first established in Britain in Roman times, especially in the fourth century AD, but much of that tradition was obliterated by the pagan Anglo-Saxon invasions and settlement expansion of the fifth and sixth centuries.

“The newly evaluated archaeological evidence from St Pancras Canterbury, for the first time, pinpoints where Christian public worship was officially first re-established after a period of pagan domination,” said Professor Ken Dark at the University of Reading, who has been reassessing early Christian archaeological material from that city. “It marks the official relaunch of Christianity in what would become England.”

The construction of St Pancras Church in around 600 was the culmination of a long political and spiritual process that had begun around 90 years earlier. In AD508 the French king, Clovis I, converted to Christianity. His royal successors remained Christians and, in 580, his granddaughter, a Christian princess called Bertha, married the pagan King Aethelberht, ruler of the Anglo-Saxon Kingdom of Kent.



An aerial shot of St Augustine's Abbey and St Pancras Church (John Fielding/CC BY 2.0)

The papacy saw that marriage as an opportunity to try to convert England's pagan Anglo-Saxon kingdoms to Christianity. So in the early 590s, Pope Gregory the Great sought to establish contact with Aethelberht through Bertha. That relationship bore fruit in 595 when the Pope succeeded in persuading the king to allow him to send a papal representative to Kent: St Augustine. Around 18 months later, Augustine arrived in Kent as the first Archbishop of Canterbury. He immediately started holding private Christian religious services in Bertha's tiny personal chapel, which was dedicated to the French saint, St Martin. But the small Roman-era building had almost certainly not been constructed as a church.

With Kent of huge strategic geopolitical importance to the papacy, St Augustine seems to have decided to construct a purpose-built church, which became the first Anglo-Saxon building in which normal Christian congregational worship could occur. It was many years before the main base of the Archbishop of Canterbury was finally moved to the heart of the ruined Roman city, marking the first Canterbury Cathedral.

Until now, most modern scholarship had concluded that St Pancras had been built after the time of St Augustine, but Professor Dark's reassessment of the archaeological data demonstrates that it was constructed between 597 and 609.

The new dating – the first to be based on a full examination of the archaeological evidence – is based on four main pieces of evidence: St Pancras' substantially different alignment in relation to the adjacent churches on the site, the very unsophisticated nature of the building, the fact it appears to have been built in a hurry, and the fact that it was soon abandoned.

The ruins of St Pancras form part of the English Heritage-administered St Augustine's Abbey complex, which is itself a Unesco World Heritage Site. Professor Dark's research is published in the current edition of the *Journal of the British Archaeological Association*.

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News/ Exclusive



Hospitals plan ‘warm banks’ for vulnerable patients



NHS chief warns a lack of heating and food could be life-threatening for susceptible patients (PA)

REBECCA THOMAS

HEALTH CORRESPONDENT

NHS trusts are considering opening “warm banks” because of fears lives are at risk this winter as the cost of living crisis deepens.

At least two trusts are looking at giving hospital and healthcare spaces up for people in need of a warm place, while one GP said she would offer food and open a room in her office for people struggling to heat their homes.

It comes as an NHS chief warned a lack of heating could be “life-threatening” for vulnerable patients and is leading to hospital admissions.

Harrogate and Rural District Hospital Foundation Trust and Leeds Community Healthcare Trust could become the first to open “warm banks” if their plans go ahead.

Staff in Harrogate are looking at whether they can use the trust’s hospital education centre as a warm place for patients. It has also launched support for workers struggling with the rising cost of living, including a shop from which workers can take items at no cost and can make donations.

It has also increased its petrol reimbursement mileage rates for staff, has not reintroduced car parking charges, allows staff to sell back their holiday allowance and offers a £500 grant for anyone struggling.

Leeds Community Healthcare Trust is exploring whether its community health centres can be used as buildings with heating and electricity for people in the community, as well as places where voluntary organisations can hold drop-ins for those in need.

Another trust in Leicester has also discussed the idea of hosting warm banks but hasn’t yet started planning for them, *The Independent* was told.

Dr Farzana Hussain, a GP in Newham, east London, will open a room to hold around 16 people at her practice this October and provide soup to patients in need, amid fears patients could die of hypothermia or starvation this winter.

She told *The Independent*: “If you asked me in my 21st year as a GP did I ever think I was going to be in this position and thinking about providing food? It’s a horrible place we’re in but without food and warmth how can we have health?”

“All my medical training isn’t going to help anybody when my elderly patient has already got hypothermia.

“We’re living in one of the most iconic cities in the world, I never thought I would see this. I would never have thought that we might face a day where we might get a call saying one of our patients has died of starvation or hypothermia. That’s the moral injury. I don’t want it to happen but if it did I would not be surprised and that’s a horrific thing to be contemplating.”

Last week, Samantha Allen, NHS chief in the North East and Cumbria, wrote to the Office of Gas and Electricity Markets, warning vulnerable people were having their energy cut off. She warned the regulator that could be “life-threatening for some people”.

Matthew Taylor, chief executive of the NHS Confederation, said health leaders were worried thousands of people will face the choice between skipping meals and having to heat their homes or living in cold, damp conditions.

He said this would exacerbate health inequalities and that health leaders “know well that fuel poverty is likely to lead to significant extra demand on what are already very fragile services”.

Charlotte Augst, chief executive for the charity National Voices, said it had heard of an increasing number of people unable to meet “basic living needs” while living with ill health.

“Cancer patients can feel very cold during treatment, people living with Crohn’s or Colitis can find they have more laundry to do, and kidney patients often need to run energy-hungry, essential equipment overnight,” she said.

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Machete attacker jailed for slashing Tube passenger



Like 'the Terminator': Ricky Morgan targeted a business consultant in the vicious assault on a packed Tube train (British Transport Police/PA)

CHIARA GIORDANO

A man who left a business consultant fearing for his life after attacking him with a machete on a packed Tube train has been jailed for life.

Ricky Morgan, 35, acted “like the Terminator” as he hacked at James Porritt in an unprovoked attack in front of terrified passengers travelling on the Jubilee line in central London.

Horrified onlookers toppled over each other as they attempted to flee through carriages to escape the attacker. But Morgan was heard to tell horrified passengers: “This is not a terror attack, I only want him.”

Mr Porritt, who suffered a severe injury to his hand and bone-deep cuts to his head and shin, told a trial at the Old Bailey it was like a “horror movie” or the Arnold Schwarzenegger sci-fi film *The Terminator*.

Morgan, of no fixed address, denied attempted murder on grounds of insanity but was found guilty by a jury on 20 May following two days of deliberations. He was also convicted of possessing a machete and a lock knife.

The defendant was jailed for life with a minimum term of 16 years at the Old Bailey yesterday for carrying out what a judge described as “every Tube traveller’s nightmare”.

The incident, caught on CCTV, went on for 20 minutes before Morgan was confronted by police and dropped the machete. Graphic footage showed Morgan shouting and thrashing with the machete inside the carriage as terrified passengers scrambled to get away.

Sentencing Morgan, Judge John Hillen told him: “Having watched many times during the trial the ferocity of your attack captured by on-board CCTV images, James Porritt is very lucky to have survived.



Random victim: James Porritt thought Morgan was going to kill him (PA)

“What happened will haunt him for the rest of his life. He thought he was going to die and never expected to escape from that attack alive.

“Many if not most of the people in the carriage, fearing you were about to slash people indiscriminately – and at least some of them fearing it was a terrorist attack – got up and started screaming and frantically trying to get away.

“It was a wonder that no one else suffered injury. I think it is not too sensationalist or overdramatic to say this was every traveller’s nightmare.”

On the evening of 9 July 2021, Mr Porritt, a self-employed businessman, had visited a gym and was on his way to meet his girlfriend and her father in west London.

He got on a northbound train at Westminster before Morgan produced the machete and a lock knife from his rucksack near Green Park.

In a video interview played in court, Mr Porritt described minding his own business and being in a “bubble” as he sat in the carriage. He was looking at his phone and feeling nervous about the family meeting when he heard a scream.

The next thing he knew, the defendant was hitting him over the head, the court was told. He put his hand up to protect himself during the onslaught, the jury heard.

Describing the attack, he said: “I was pleading ‘Please stop, please stop’. I was in shock, it was like a horror movie. I genuinely thought he was going to kill me.”

Mr Porritt said he did not feel anything but saw the blood as Morgan smashed an object over his head.

“He was like a machine. It was like that movie, *Terminator*,” he said. “He was emotionless. He did not seem to have any kind of compassion. But it seemed very focused and relentless and he was just hellbent on doing what he was doing.



Relentless: a witness said Morgan let out an ‘unholy scream’ as he struck with the machete (PA)

“He was like on a mission. He kept hitting my shin and I genuinely thought I was going to die. I’ve got nothing left now. I don’t know how I escaped. I was scared I was going to lose my little finger and I held it together.”

Morgan pursued him and lunged the “huge” blade through the window of the connecting carriage door, Mr Porritt said. Pointing with the knife through the door, Morgan said: “I don’t want anyone else, I just want him,” the court heard.

Mr Porritt described the machete as “like something out of *Arabian Nights*”. He managed to get away and through a carriage door while holding the severed parts of his hand together. People were screaming but they could not hold Morgan off, and Mr Porritt added: “It was just terrifying.”

According to witnesses, passengers got up and screamed when the attacker started waving the knife around. Many tried to run away but in the panic ended up piled on the floor, the court heard.

One witness said the attacker let out an “unholy scream” as he hit out with the machete. Another passenger bravely tried to engage with Morgan and told him to “calm down”, the court heard.

Meanwhile, a doctor who happened to be on the train gave Mr Porritt first aid. After being confronted by police, Morgan dropped the blade, put his hands up and got on the floor.

He told officers it was “a road issue” not a “terrorist attack”, adding: “If I had known it would cause this much drama I would not have done it.” Morgan was to tell a psychiatrist he had been carrying the machete and lock knife around for some time.

The court heard Morgan had a history of low-level violence dating back to the age of 13. He had 26 previous convictions for 58 offences, including the more serious crime of discharging a sawn-off shotgun into a private house.

In mitigation, Warwick Aleeson said the offences were likely to have come about as a result of Morgan’s “profound and serious undiagnosed schizophrenia”.

On Morgan’s willingness to seek treatment, the barrister said: “Ricky Morgan does not wish to be the terrified, deluded creature living in a room he had barricaded from the outside world believing attackers were going to kill him.”

Morgan, born in Newham, east London, had a troubled upbringing and became homeless following his release from prison in 2020.

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Pictures of the Day



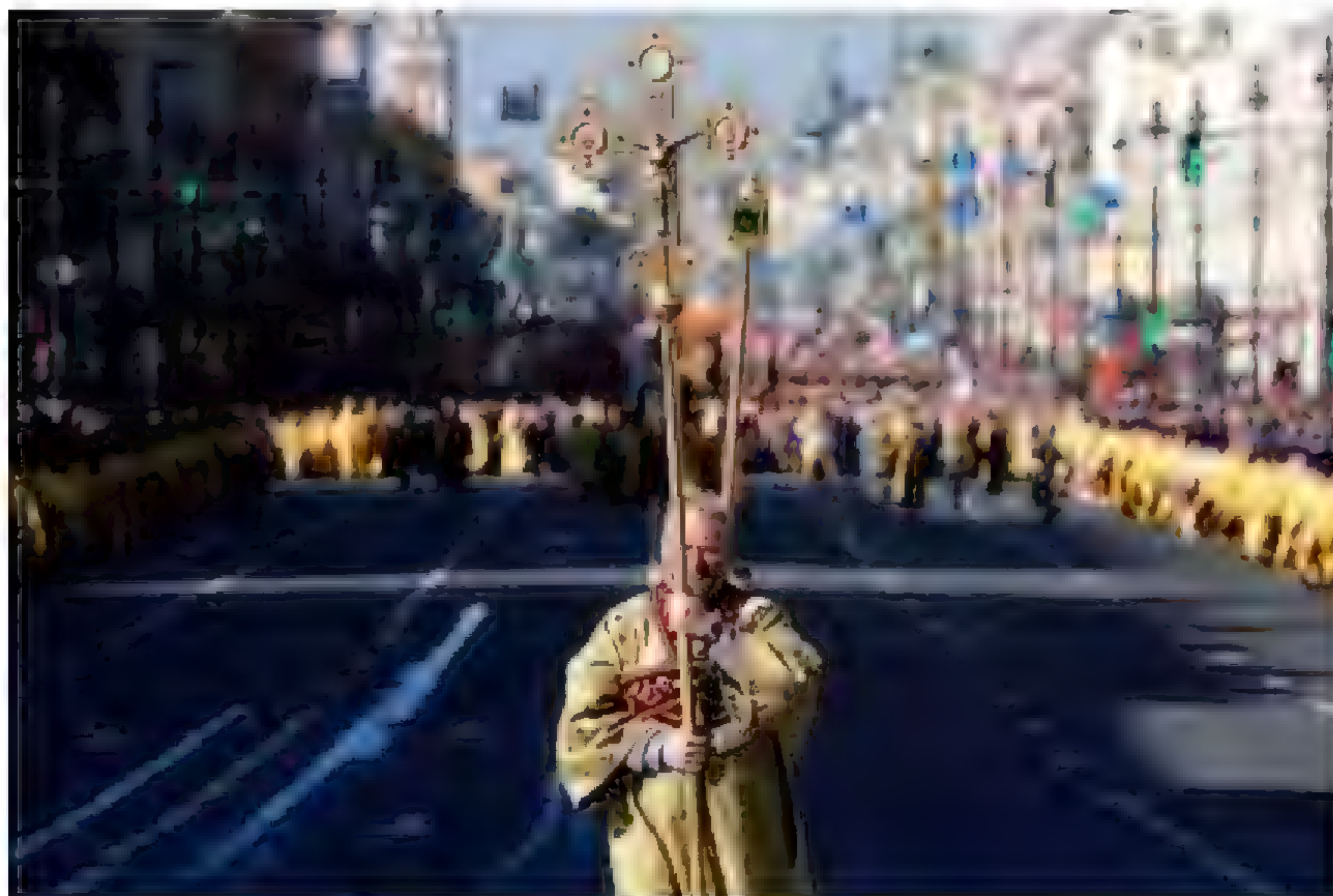
Mane event

Icelandic horses play on a meadow at a stud farm in Wehrheim near Frankfurt, Germany, as the sun rises. *AP*



Brush with fame

An autoportrait by late Mexican artist Frida Kahlo on display next to outfits that belonged to her, during a preview of the Frida Kahlo, Beyond Appearances exhibition at Palais Galleria in Paris. *AFP/Getty*



The chosen path

Orthodox believers join a procession in St Petersburg, Russia. *EPA*



Open minds

The Salle Ovale at the National Richelieu Library in Paris. After 12 years of work, the Richelieu site of France's National Library is fully reopening to the public. *EPA*



This bud's for you

A woman walks past a mobile cannabis boutique in Bangkok, Thailand. *EPA*

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Home news in brief



Gwyneth Powell, best known for her role in 'Grange Hill', has died aged 76 (Shutterstock)

Grange Hill's headmistress dies

Gwyneth Powell, who appeared in the BBC series *Grange Hill*, has died at the age of 76, her agent has said. Powell was best known for playing headmistress Bridget McClusky between 1981 and 1991 and also appeared in Channel 4 comedy show *Man Down*. Her representative Matthew Lacey said in a statement on behalf of the family that the actress died "after

complications following a major operation for a perforated colon”.

She died last Thursday in Brighton and the statement added: “She passed away peacefully, with her husband [Alan Leith] and niece at her bedside. Patricia Hidalgo, director of BBC Children’s and Education: “We are very sorry to hear of the passing of Gwyneth Powell. Her famous portrayal of Mrs McClusky is one that will be fondly remembered by all those that grew up watching *Grange Hill*.”

Powell was born in Manchester and landed her first major television role in the 1971 London Weekend Television dystopian drama series *The Guardians*. Although she secured regular work and appeared in a series of TV dramas, her career accelerated after being cast in the children’s series *Grange Hill*, about life in a comprehensive school. She played the tough but fair headmistress Bridget McClusky for a decade until requesting she was written out so she could pursue other roles.

Golf course searched for weapon that killed Olivia Pratt-Korbel

Police are searching land at a golf course for the weapon that killed nine-year-old Olivia Pratt-Korbel. Olivia was fatally shot and her mother Cheryl Korbel, 46, was injured when a gunman chased convicted burglar Joseph Nee into their home in Dovecot, Liverpool. Three weeks on from the death of the schoolgirl, Merseyside Police said an “extensive land search” was being carried out at West Derby Golf Club.

Vaping could cause cancer spike in decade

Vaping could cause a new wave of cancer in 10 years’ time, according to scientists. Researchers at the Francis Crick Institute (FCI) say while vaping is safer than smoking cigarettes, the long-term health risks are unclear. Around 3.6 million people in Britain smoke e-cigarettes and they are commonly used by ex-smokers to help them quit. Professor Charles Swanton, clinical scientist at the FCI and chief clinician at

Cancer Research UK, says vaping poses a potential threat to people's health. "I don't think we can say vaping is necessarily a safe option to quit smoking. It may be safer but that doesn't mean it's safe," he said.

Turbines in Thames 'could help power parliament'

The installation of a hydroelectric turbine in the Thames could soon provide renewable energy to the Palace of Westminster, under plans suggested by the House of Commons speaker. Sir Lindsey Hoyle has called for a feasibility study to look at the possibility of installing large turbines which would harness the tidal power of the river to create electricity.

The Thames is tidal all the way to Teddington, further west than Richmond and 160km (99 miles) from where the river reaches the sea. The changing tides cause a 5m to 7m twice daily rise and fall. In theory, hydroelectric turbines could take advantage of these flows to generate electricity. However, the depth of the river near the Palace of Westminster could prove to be an issue, with concerns it is not deep enough.

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Right-wing bloc takes slim lead in Swedish election



Sweden Democrats, led by Jimmie Akesson, want a tougher immigration policy (EPA)

RORY SULLIVAN

A far-right party in Sweden has become the second largest in parliament following an election which is still too close to call.

Sweden Democrats, a group that has neo-Nazi roots, has profited from the country's shift to the right, which has left the

party and its allies on the verge of taking power. With 94 per cent of votes from Sunday's election counted, the right-wing bloc has a narrow lead over its centre-left opponents.

Early yesterday, projections suggested that the Moderates, Sweden Democrats, Christian Democrats and Liberals would win 176 of the country's 349 seats. The ruling Social Democrats are expected to fall short, at 173 seats. However, this could still all change, with the Swedish electoral commission saying the final results would not be known until tomorrow at the earliest. "It's incredibly close. It's basically a coin toss with 50-50 for both sides. So, we don't know at the moment," cautioned Zeth Isaksson, a sociologist at Stockholm University.



Going nowhere: prime minister Magdalena Andersson insists the race is not over (AFP/Getty)

Social Democrat prime minister Magdalena Andersson has not resigned, insisting that the race is still in the balance. Nevertheless, the Sweden Democrats' surge in popularity is striking in a country that prides itself on moderation. They are likely to end up with 21 per cent of the vote, behind the Social Democrats' 30.5 per cent but ahead of the centre-right Moderates' 19 per cent.

The Sweden Democrats have sought to distance themselves from the party's extremist beginnings by saying it is "something different from what was founded about 30 years ago". But the group, led by Jimmie Akesson, has retained its staunch opposition to Swedish immigration policy. It has also promised

to crack down on gang violence, after a spate of deadly shootings.



Moderates leader Ulf Kristersson is favourite to lead the country if the right-wing bloc takes power (AFP/Getty)

On Sunday, travel consultant Malin Ericsson expressed concerns about a potential government including the Sweden Democrats: “I’m fearing very much a repressive, very right-wing government coming.” Meanwhile, small business owner Jorgen Hellstrom said he would welcome a change: “Taxes need to come down by quite a bit and we need to sort out crime. The last eight years have gone in the wrong direction.”

If the right-wing bloc assumes power, it is expected that Moderate leader Ulf Kristersson will become prime minister. “We don’t know what the result will be,” he said after the polls closed. “But I am ready to do all I can to form a new, stable and vigorous government for the whole of Sweden and all its citizens.”

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UN chief describes Pakistan flooding as ‘climate carnage’



Antonio Guterres speaks to children at a flood relief camp in Jaffarabad on Saturday (AP)

STUTI MISHRA

United Nations secretary general Antonio Guterres has concluded his trip to Pakistan's flood-affected areas, saying he has “never seen climate carnage” on such a scale.

As the south Asian nation grapples with increasing challenges in the aftermath of its worst ever flooding, which claimed the lives of nearly 1,400 people, including over 450 children, and left

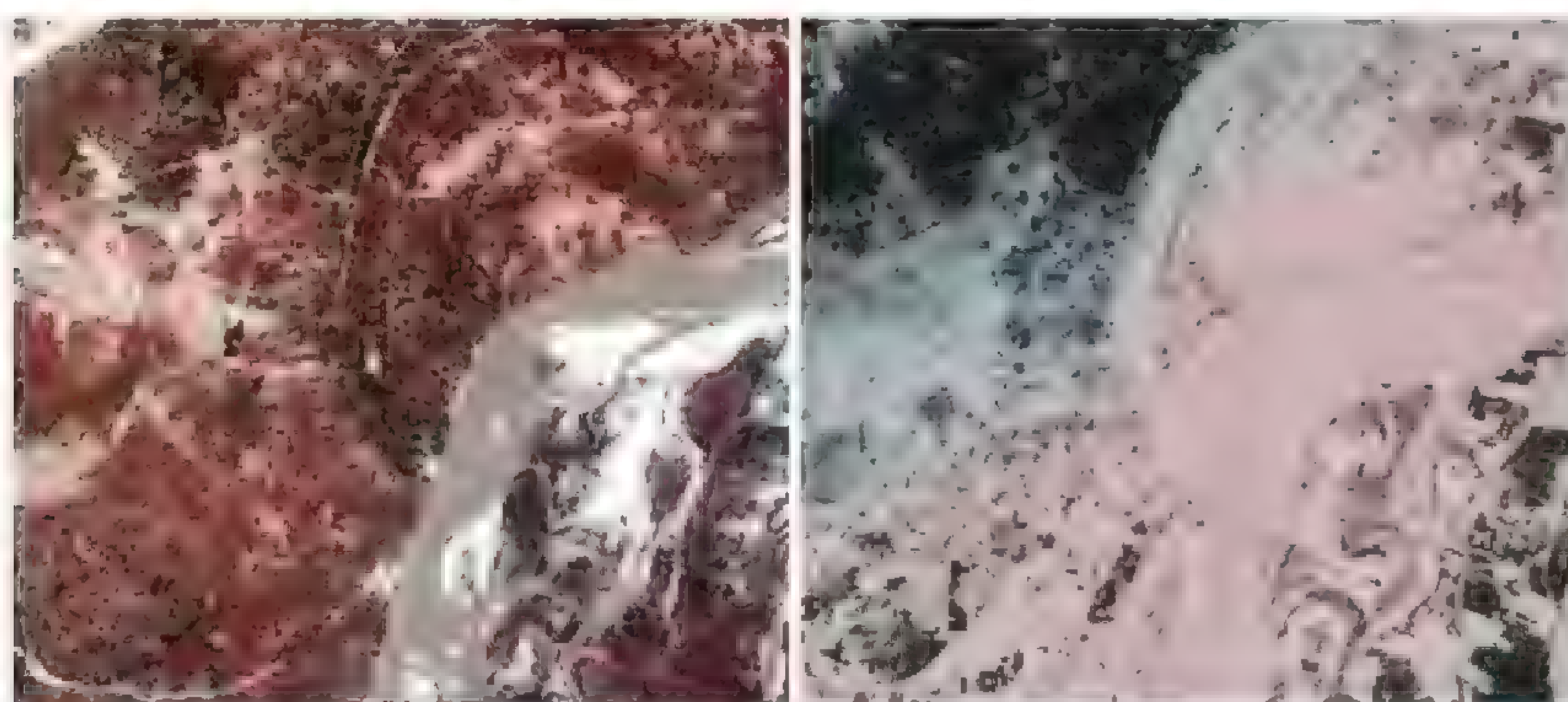
millions of people displaced or otherwise affected, Mr Guterres said he had “no words to describe” what he had seen.

“I have seen many humanitarian disasters in the world, but I have never seen climate carnage on this scale,” he said at a press conference in the port city of Karachi.

The country, which was already dealing with economic challenges amid unprecedented inflation and dwindling foreign reserves, is now facing a massive public health crisis as water-borne diseases spread, along with damage estimated to be worth over \$13bn (£11.1bn). Pakistan is also grappling with food shortages after the floods left the impoverished country’s agriculture belt under water.

Mr Guterres said he hoped his visit would bolster the support and aid that the country desperately needs, as he promised more help from the UN while attacking developed nations for not fulfilling their moral duty to make climate reparations.

“Wealthier countries are morally responsible for helping developing countries like Pakistan to recover from disasters like this, and to adapt to build resilience to climate impacts that unfortunately will be repeated in the future,” Mr Guterres said, adding that G20 nations are responsible for 80 per cent of today’s emissions.



Satellite photos show the Indus River in the aftermath of flooding in Rajanpur this year (Maxar Technologies)

Pakistan and south Asia are among the regions that are most vulnerable to the increase in extreme weather events caused by the climate crisis, despite their negligible contribution to the problem. The wider south Asia region, including India, has witnessed back-to-back extreme weather events this year, with

record-breaking heatwaves and changing patterns of monsoon, while the glaciers in the Himalayan region continue to melt faster than expected.

Mr Guterres said the large emitters have to end their “war with nature”, calling investment in fossil fuel “collective suicide”.

“Pakistan and other developing countries, from the Horn of Africa to the Sahel, are paying a horrific price for the intransigence of big emitters that continue to bet on fossil fuels in the face of science, common sense and basic human decency,” he said. “Even today, emissions are rising as people die in floods and famines,” Mr Guterres continued. “This is insanity. This is collective suicide.”

Mr Guterres also visited the 4,500-year-old ruins of the ancient city of Mohenjo-Daro, which was threatened by massive flooding in the Sindh province. Mohenjo-Daro is one of the world’s oldest known cities, and is said to contain the secrets of the Indus Valley civilisation and its mysterious disappearance.

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Chinese censors bury posts about lockdown shortages



Residents wait for supplies at a fruit stall in Xinjiang (Reuters)

ALISHA RAHAMAN SARKAR

Chinese censors have been ordered to flood social media with positive posts about the northwestern region of Xinjiang in an effort to muffle the barrage of complaints about food and medicine shortages.

Millions of people in at least 30 regions of mainland China have been placed under a full or partial lockdown under the

communist government's "zero-Covid" policy, which aims to stamp out a Covid outbreak as early as possible. The Ili Kazakh (also known as Yili) autonomous prefecture, home to nearly 4.5 million people, was reportedly put under a lockdown in early August without any official announcement.

The prolonged lockdown has left locals short of food and medicines, forcing them to share their grievances on Chinese social media site Weibo. To drown out the complaints, censors were told to "open a campaign of comment flooding", according to a leaked directive published by the *China Digital Times*.

"All internet commentary organisational work units must carry out comment flooding work at the relevant times ... the time period in question is from 8pm to 10pm," the document, translated by the US-based organisation, read. "There are no subject matter restrictions," the directive stated, asking the army of internet commentators to post content, including "domestic life, daily parenting, cooking, or personal moods".

The document barred "all internet commentary personnel" from posting at rapid speed. Following the order, food and cooking videos spread on Weibo. Netizens, however, were quick to call out the posts, prompting the commentators to make their accounts private. "All these posts about Yili scenery and food are coming from alternate accounts. Nice job, g*v*rm*nt. Have you ever heard of maintaining a shred of dignity," asked a user on Weibo.

China has been urged to reconsider its Covid policy after the World Health Organisation warned it was an unsustainable course of action earlier this year. Last week, a pregnant woman, who was nine days past her due date and bleeding, complained that she was forced to leave the Xinhua hospital when it was suddenly closed. "There are eight to nine pregnant women waiting here. Where are we supposed to go, what are we supposed to do," the woman wrote, according to blogging website *What's on Weibo*.

"We've been locked in for 40 days and yet they opened up the tourist areas," one local lamented. "Children who have 40-

degree fever can't even see a doctor, pregnant women can't even get into the hospital, we really can't take this anymore." One now-removed video, posted on Chinese social media, showed a man screaming: "I've had enough". Local authorities in Xinjiang on Friday apologised for the supply crisis following widespread outcry.

Earlier this month, the UN human rights office published a report accusing the Chinese government of violating the rights of Uyghur Muslims and other ethnic minority groups in Xinjiang. The 48-page document stated that serious human rights violations have been committed against Uyghurs in the name of the "government's application of counterterrorism and counterextremism strategies". Beijing rejected the report, calling it an assessment based on "disinformation and lies fabricated by anti-China forces".

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Will we compromise on the Northern Ireland protocol?

While an offer by the EU to reduce physical customs checks across the Irish Sea is not entirely new, it puts the ball firmly back in the UK government's court, writes **Chris Stevenson**



There may be little difference now between the positions of the UK and the EU (AFP/Getty)

How to solve a problem like the Northern Ireland protocol? It is a question that we are no closer to finding an answer to, although the EU's Brexit chief, Maros Sefcovic, is the latest to

add to the back-and-forth between the bloc and the UK government.

Sefcovic has said he is open to the idea of reducing physical customs checks across the Irish Sea to potentially just “a couple of lorries a day” in a bid to break the impasse. He added, in an interview with the *Financial Times*, that there was almost no difference between the UK’s demand for “no checks” and the EU’s offer of “minimum checks, done in an invisible manner”.

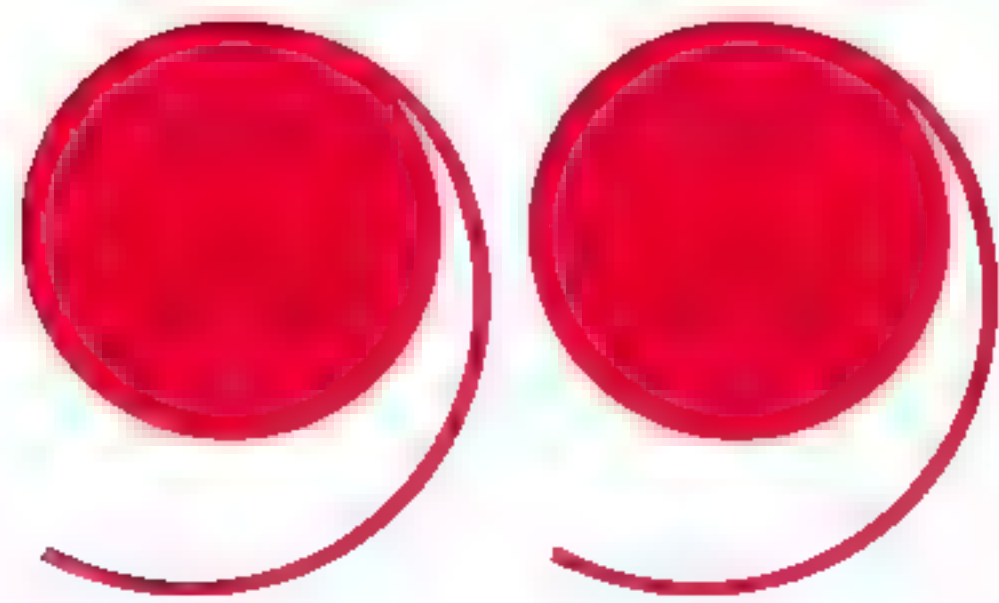
According to respected Brexit analyst Mujtaba Rahman of the Eurasia Group, senior UK officials believe that the offer “doesn’t go far enough” and “isn’t particularly new”. But Sefcovic’s remarks have revealed the kind of practical changes that Brussels envisages from a possible compromise deal.

So what can we expect from a UK response, with the ball now back in the government’s court? Certainly little this week, as preparations are made for the funeral of Queen Elizabeth II. However, the minister for foreign affairs in the Irish government, Simon Coveney, offered up some words over the weekend on his former counterpart, Liz Truss, which give a sense of where we stand.

“The approach that she decided to take as foreign secretary towards the protocol was, in my view, very unhelpful,” he told RTE’s radio programme *This Week*. “It was an approach that I challenged with her personally, and that meant we had some difficult conversations. But that’s politics.”



The fact that Chris Heaton-Harris and Steve Baker have been appointed by Truss to the Northern Ireland Office suggests that there might not be much of a softening of approach



However, Coveney also suggested that Truss's elevation represents an opportunity that needs to be grasped. "She's prime minister now, of course, which puts her in a different place in terms of responsibility, but certainly the Irish government, the taoiseach, myself, the tanaiste, and the European Commission look on the change in leadership in the British government as an opportunity to try and reset relationships," he said.

He continued: "I hope that in the weeks ahead, when the funeral arrangements and the mourning period for Queen Elizabeth II ends, that there will be an opportunity to have an honest and direct discussion between the British government and the EU, and obviously Ireland will be very much involved in that discussion, to try and settle some of the outstanding issues that continue to cause polarisation and political tension linked to Brexit and the NI protocol."

The fact that Chris Heaton-Harris and Steve Baker, both former chairs of the Brexiteer European Research Group (ERG), have been appointed by Truss to the Northern Ireland Office suggests that there might not be much of a softening of approach. Although, as some have suggested, there is always the chance

that if a compromise is to be hammered out, Truss would want such hardliners to be involved in it.

Calls between the new Truss administration and Irish officials are said to have been conducted cordially, but we will have to wait and see what comes next.

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World news in brief



Refugees from Myanmar fishing in the Bay of Bengal (Reuters)

Rohingya destabilising Bangladesh, says PM

Bangladesh's prime minister said yesterday that the prolonged stay of more than 1 million Rohingya refugees in crowded camps in the country has become a serious security and stability concern. "Apart from their own miseries, their prolonged presence is causing a serious impact on the economy, environment, security and sociopolitical stability of Bangladesh," prime minister Sheikh Hasina said at the opening ceremony of a three-day meeting of military officials from 24 countries in the Indo-Pacific region.

Ms Ahmed said the military leaders are being taken to the camps in Cox's Bazar district to give them "a clear perception" of the gravity of the refugee crisis and why their repatriation to Myanmar is necessary. Last month, the refugees marked the fifth anniversary of a mass exodus of more than 700,000 Rohingya into Bangladesh who were fleeing a harsh crackdown by Myanmar's military. Ms Hasina has said that repatriation is the only solution to the crisis, but that Bangladesh would not force them to go back to Myanmar. *AP*

New Zealand removes most remaining Covid rules

New Zealand yesterday removed most of its remaining Covid-19 restrictions as the government signalled a return to normalcy for the first time since the pandemic began. People will no longer be required to wear masks in supermarkets, stores, busses or planes. The last remaining vaccine mandates – on healthcare workers – will end. And tourists will no longer need to be vaccinated in order to visit the country.

The government announced it was ditching its Covid traffic light framework altogether and leaving in place just two main restrictions – that those who test positive for the virus isolate for seven days, and that people wear masks when visiting healthcare facilities like hospitals and aged-care homes. The changes come as an omicron variant outbreak wanes and the Southern Hemisphere winter ends. Case numbers in New Zealand are at the lowest point since February. *AP*

Cyclist charged after attacking woman for not wearing a bra

Canadian Police have charged a 37-year-old woman in Ottawa with assault and mischief after they were called to an incident in a park where a woman apparently had become upset because another person in the area was not wearing a bra. "Yesterday evening I was attacked by a white woman who was upset I was wearing no bra. I utilized IG live to record her actions against me," wrote Anishinaabe Twitter user Laura Gagnon in a caption

sharing the since viral video. “I have never experienced a white mob chasing me and it’s the scariest thing that’s ever happened to me in my life. Please be safe out there.”

According to the *Ottawa Citizen*, the police force is continuing to investigate the incident that erupted at the public space on Wednesday night which the force described as a “verbal altercation that escalated into a physical altercation”.

Doctor runs 3km in flooded city to perform surgery

An Indian doctor who was stuck in traffic in the southern city of Bengaluru has won praise on social media for running 3km (1.9 miles) to perform emergency surgery. Dr Govind Nandakumar, a gastroenterology surgeon, was on his way to Manipal Hospital in Sarjapur in southeast Bengaluru on 30 August when he got stuck in traffic. His patient had been suffering from a gall bladder illness for a long time and needed surgery. When Dr Nandakumar realised that the traffic logjam would endanger his patient’s life, he decided to get out of his car. He ran to reach the hospital and then performed the surgery, which was a success.

Mother questioned after children found dead on beach

The mother of three children, who died after being found unconscious on a beach at Coney Island, New York, has been questioned, police have said. Chief of department Kenneth Corey told reporters at news briefing that investigators had questioned the mother, who has not been named, after the deaths of the three children at a hospital yesterday morning.

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Travelling into 2023: top holiday tips with Simon Calder and Helen Coffey

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Camilla played her part and has won over the nation



From 'Rottweiler' to redemption: the road has been long for the Queen Consort (Getty)

SEAN O'GRADY



How did Camilla get from “Rottweiler” to Queen Consort?

The Rottweiler was reportedly one of Princess Diana’s more polite nicknames for her husband’s mistress, to use the term of the time. She was the woman Diana also referenced as “the third person in her marriage” to the then

Prince of Wales. She squarely blamed Camilla for the collapse of that marriage, and once even confronted Camilla about it in front of guests at a posh house party. Insults were exchanged.

By the time Diana died in Paris in 1997, Camilla Parker-Bowles was the most hated woman in Britain. She was routinely blamed for the untimely death of the hugely popular and charismatic princess, unfavourably compared to the saintly Di, and roundly insulted. She basically had to go into hiding.

The snarling tabloids tore Camilla to bits, rather as a rottweiler might: the now nominally single woman (divorced in 1995) was labelled a “hag”, an “old bag”; a “gin-soaked, hatchet-faced, horse-faced, loose but frumpy woman with a Rothmans fag never far from her grasp”. Or, indeed, the Prince of Wales.

In his first address to the nation, King Charles referred to “my darling wife, Camilla”, who he was pleased to confirm was now Queen Consort. It is difficult to overstate what a transformation this represents.

A few years before the death of Diana, back in 1993 – after the separation of Charles and Diana had been announced to a disappointed public – Charles and Camilla, still then a relatively obscure figure, were humiliated by the emergence of clandestine recordings of an eight-minute telephone conversation.

Known alternatively as the Camillagate or Tampongate tapes, they were made public. Anyone could read them in the *Daily Mirror*, or listen in via a premium rate phone line. A bewildered public, for a modest surcharge to the phone bill, could then listen to the heir to the throne indulge in the most bizarre of fantasies.

Charles hardly made matters easier when he gave Jonathan Dimbleby an interview where he admitted his adultery with Camilla, albeit with an arguably convenient (to him) version of its timing. For most of the 1990s, Charles suffered abysmal opinion poll ratings. In her 1995 interview with Martin Bashir, answering the Dimbleby revelations, Diana went nuclear, going so far as to suggest that Charles wasn't fit to be king:

“Being Prince of Wales produces more freedom now, and being King would be a little bit more suffocating. And because I know the character I would think that the top job, as I call it, would bring enormous limitations to him, and I don’t know whether he could adapt to that”.

How did this pair navigate their way from the deepest ravine of public contempt to the now easy acceptance of their double act as head of state and consort?



Diana speculated that it might be best to skip a generation and go for William, so Charles could “find peace”. Bit of a rottweiler herself, was Di in that intervention. Most of the public were sympathetic to her view. So, it was sometimes rumoured, were the Queen and the Duke of Edinburgh, who’d harboured doubts about their eldest child’s mettle. As we can see rather clearly now, the Queen was never attracted to the idea of retirement and breaking her coronation vows, but her son’s wayward habits and unpopularity reinforced her determination to go on and on.

This all seems a bit heavy and harsh to rake over as the King cracks on with the job, but it is the plain truth, and explored here only to illustrate quite how radical the transformation that he and, moreover, Camilla, have achieved really is. Their journey together is remarkable.

How did it happen? How did this pair navigate their way from the deepest ravine of public contempt to the now easy acceptance of their double act as head of state and crowned consort?

The short answer is: “love”. It’s not soppy at all, but a very real force, and it is that that has sustained their relationship since they met in the summer of 1971, when they were both in their early twenties. Half a century ago, in other words.

The then Camilla Shand ended up marrying an army officer, Andrew Parker-Bowles. Maybe she hesitated, Charles hesitated, or the Queen was too sceptical, or all three, depending on which version you believe, but their relationship ended by 1973. Or didn't... by the mid-1980s, they were seeing each other again.

Catastrophic as it almost was for the House of Windsor, the death of Diana opened up the possibility that Charles, now a widower rather than divorcee with a living former spouse, could marry again with less resistance from the Church of England, its supreme governor, the Queen, and the Queen Mother.

The Queen Mum doted on Charles, and he on his granny, but she had old-fashioned ideas about divorce. "I'm not as nice as people think I am" she's often quoted as saying; she was, under the pink bonnets, another regal rottweiler.

Charles's love for Camilla morphed into a steely determination. By 2001 they were openly co-habiting, much to his mother's distaste. The then Prince of Wales leveraged his status as heir apparent to gain the Queen's reluctant assent to a marriage to Camilla. He declared his partnership with Camilla to be "non-negotiable". Either his mother and her advisers agreed to allow him to marry Camilla, or he'd carry on "living in sin" until he became king... a tricky proposition of a future head of the Church of England, though commonplace in the real world.

Unlike the case of her uncle, Edward VIII, and Mrs Simpson in 1936, or her sister Princess Margaret and Group Captain Peter Townsend in 1955, the Queen lacked the moral power in a changed world to resist her son's wish to marry the person he loved. Charles was also more stubborn. The death of the Queen Mother in 2001 removed one obstacle.

In all the blanket coverage of recent events, Diana has hardly been mentioned. She's inevitably in the archive compilations, including her fairytale wedding, with the young princes and also her funeral, but she has faded and faded away



An elaborate PR campaign organised by Charles and his close aide Mark Bolland also nudged press and public towards acceptance of Camilla. “Operation PB” comprised a charm offensive with newspaper editors, selected leaking of juicy stories, a gradual crescendo of photo opportunities of the pair together in public and similar enticements to cooperate. *The Sun* became a bit of a Camilla cheerleader.

Today, it's obviously unremarkable that Charles and Camilla are an item – or that they'll be sat on thrones next to one another. Back then, though, the sight of them leaving a theatre together was a massive story, highly prized by tabloid photographers.

It worked, though it was a long slog. The Queen relented, approved their marriage and they got spliced in Windsor Register Office in 2005. The Queen skipped the civil marriage service – a small gesture of vestigial resistance – but made a little speech at the blessing in Windsor Castle afterwards. Referencing the Grand National that had just ended, she said:

“Having cleared Becher's Brook and The Chair and all kinds of other terrible obstacles, they have come through and I'm very proud and wish them well. My son is home and dry with the woman he loves. They are now on the home straight; the happy couple are now in the winners' enclosure.”

As the King gently pointed out in his first TV address, that was all of 17 years ago, and Camilla has become part of the national scene now – in a good way. This second union has lasted rather

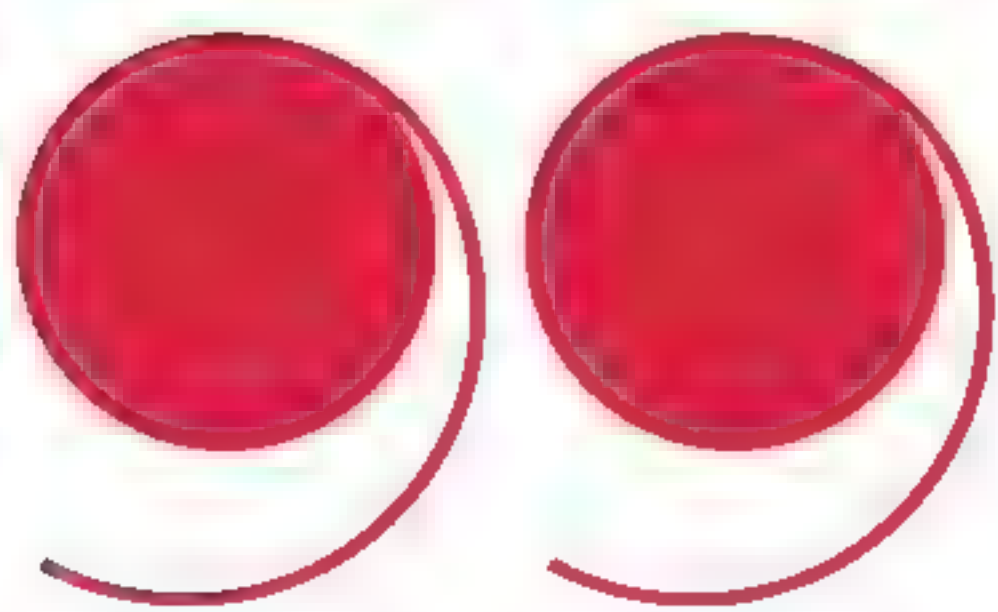
longer than his first, troubled marriage. Earlier this year the Queen gave her blessing to Camilla becoming Queen Consort, and chucked in the order of the garter as well as a gesture of esteem.

She has eclipsed Diana. In all the blanket coverage of recent events, Diana has hardly been mentioned. She's inevitably in the archive compilations, including her fairytale wedding, with the young princes and also her funeral, but she has faded and faded away.

Now she has been doubly replaced not only as Charles's partner but also as Princess of Wales, by the wife of her son William. Catherine (or Kate) in due course will be the person people first think of when they hear the words "Princess of Wales".

So Camilla is now firmly ensconced in the "winners' enclosure". Her detractors, well represented in Tom Bowers's recent *Rebel Prince*, say she's not keen on flying (not good for showing the royal standard in the Commonwealth), is a bit lazy – and still finds public appearances irksome.

On the other hand, she has long seen her main role – including during his marriage to Diana – as keeping the Prince (now King) happy – and curbing his spoiled excesses. She certainly seems indispensable. It won't be long, one suspects, before she's simply known as "Queen Camilla". The Rottweiler won.



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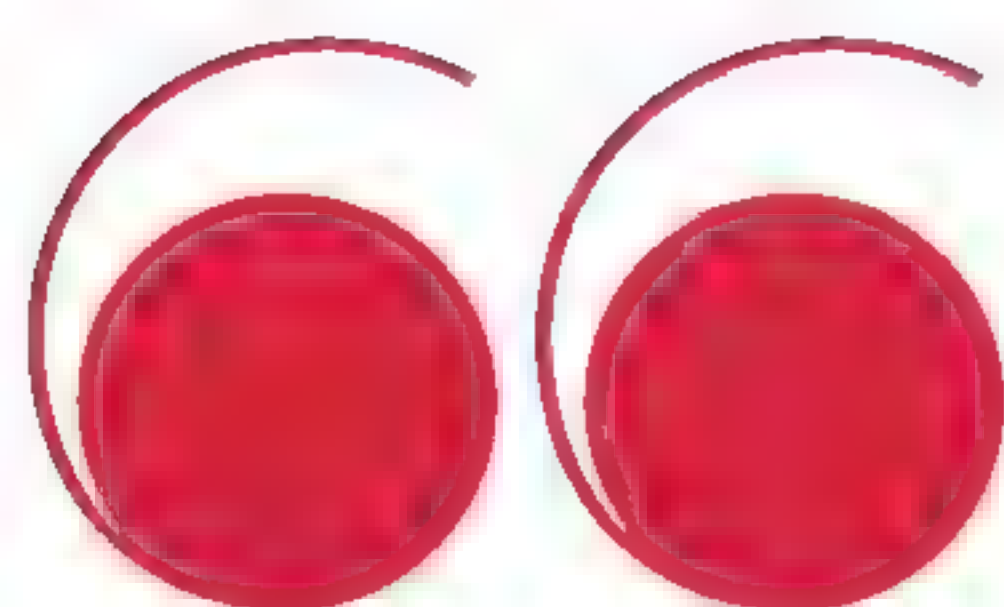


Women broke Covid rules because they had no choice



Mothers called in support from family and friends during lockdown (Getty)

IAN HAMILTON



Traditionally, we think of men as risk takers and rule breakers. It isn't a form of gender stereotyping, as there is substantial evidence that supports this view. However, according to a new report from the University of York, funded by the Nuffield Foundation, women were twice as likely as men to break Covid lockdown rules, which counters conventional thinking.

The authors suggest this departure from established gender roles, where women broke lockdown laws that banned meeting up with friends and family at home, was due to the caring responsibilities that are predominantly taken on by women. This surprising finding is explained by the way existing gender inequalities around who cares for children or other dependents were amplified by the introduction of legal restrictions.

It wasn't ignorance of the rules that lay behind these women breaking the law – rather what the authors call “creative non-compliance”. In effect, women were forced into this position. They had to make pragmatic decisions about how to ensure those they cared for didn't suffer, and provide support at a time of extreme stress. They were working, and this work was often unpaid and certainly not recognised by the state.

It is this latter point that is extremely pertinent. It explains the lack of consideration for those in unpaid caring roles from government ministers and advisors when emergency restrictions were drawn up. It is now clear that when crafting Covid laws designed to protect the wider population, the critical role that women so often play – and have done for decades – was not in their collective consciousness.

What women were doing in practice was forming bubbles before they were officially sanctioned, by calling in the support of grandparents, for example, or meeting with other mothers and carers for support. Those women who broke the law told the researchers that they believed they had adhered to the “spirit” of a particular rule. Some also justified their decisions by referencing Boris Johnson's adage about exercising “common sense”.

The impact of legislative restrictions on women should be considered in the wider review into Covid, particularly if lessons are to be learned about the ways that restricting liberty disproportionately affects women. The women who broke lockdown restrictions were not deviant; they were placed in this position by a complete lack of thought by those who drafted the laws.

Women, just like men, are largely keen to follow the rules in a time of national crisis, and working with rather than against this goodwill is one important piece of intelligence that should be used in future policy making. This phenomenon became apparent early on in the pandemic, and is believed to have surprised politicians and public health officials.

If we fail to consider and meet the needs of women, the impact is felt not only by them, but by all those they care for and nurture



Perhaps we shouldn't be taken aback by the lack of thought given to women during Covid, as this merely mirrors the absence of women and their roles and needs in other areas of policy. In an analysis of the government's 2010 drug strategy, researchers found barely any mention of women.

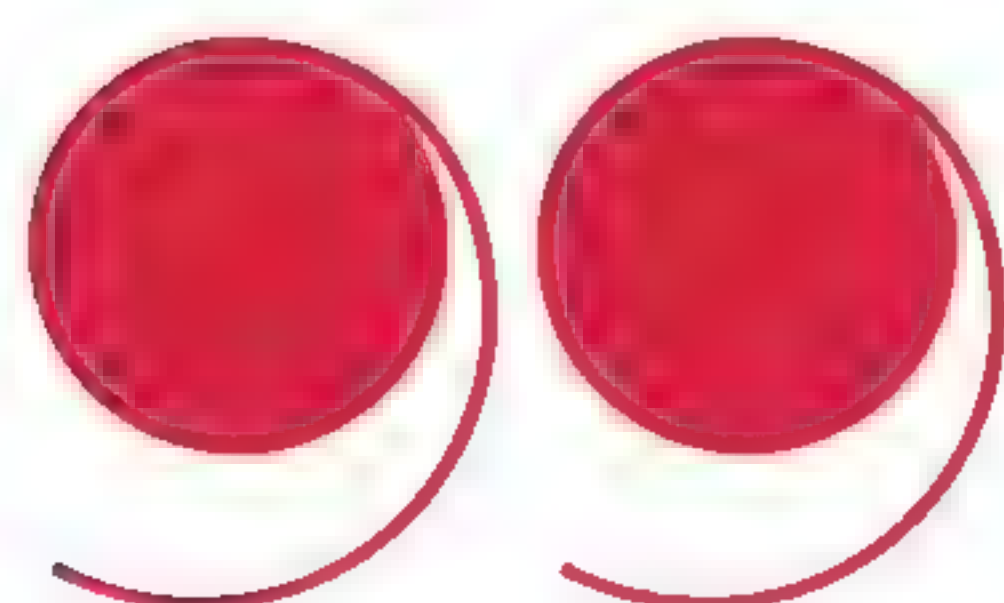
Although there is a gender difference in drug use, with men being twice as likely as women to use drugs and go on to develop problems, many women do become dependent and have substantial health and social needs. As they are also more likely to be caring for children or other dependents, it is disappointing that this is rarely reflected in drug policy.

This really matters, as policy often dictates how scarce public resources are channelled and funding allocated. If women are absent or at least don't feature as prominently as men in these discussions and the final policy document, we shouldn't be surprised that their needs are ignored in practice.

Ensuring gender equality is important in its own right, but it also makes economic sense. If we fail to consider and meet the needs of women, the impact is felt not only by them, but by all those they care for and nurture.

As this new report demonstrates, women are able and willing to make their own decisions – irrespective of the law – if it ensures those they care for are protected and can continue to thrive. The least we should expect from government and those responsible for policy is that they consider the needs and perspectives of women. But perhaps that's too ambitious in 2022.

Ian Hamilton is a senior lecturer in addiction and mental health at the University of York



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Britain's grief touched me in a way I wasn't prepared for



Will King Charles have the same effect on future generations of immigrants? (Getty)

MARIE LE CONTE



A lot of people have money set aside for retirement or a deposit, or even for future holidays. I don't. What I had, for many years, was half a grand set aside for when the Queen died.

I moved here in 2009; around 18 months later, Kate and William got married. It was unbearable. I'd always known I wasn't a

royalist – few French people are – but that wedding really tipped me over the edge. It felt unavoidable, suffocating, absurd.

A few months after it – finally, mercifully – ended, I told myself I had to start saving up. The Queen would die at some point and I just couldn't be in the country for it. I needed to have a pot of money in my account that would allow me to leg it to the airport and not look back for at least a week.

I didn't think of it as particularly offensive; you can move to a country and love it very much but still be baffled by some of its customs. It's a bit like a relationship; if I were to fall in love with someone who loves beetroot tomorrow, that would not magically make me start to love beetroot.

The Queen died last week and I am writing this from my desk in Soho, where I sit every Monday. I'll forever remember where I was a few days earlier, when Nadhim Zahawi passed a little note to the front benches and everyone could feel that something was wrong. I'll forever remember how I felt that day: curious, then anxious, then sad and angry that I would have to cancel some important evening plans, then... well.

My grandmother called me on Sunday and lightly poked fun at the naff pomp of it all – and my first instinct was to defend it



I'm not sure how I felt when the news did come out. It wasn't grief, but it wasn't nothing either; like being weighed down by the sadness of those around you. It didn't even occur to me to throw three dresses in a bag and run to Gatwick. Instead, I went home and watched a documentary about her reign, alone, in the dark.

Friday was odd as well; I'd taken the day off for unrelated reasons and so had accidentally given myself a three-day

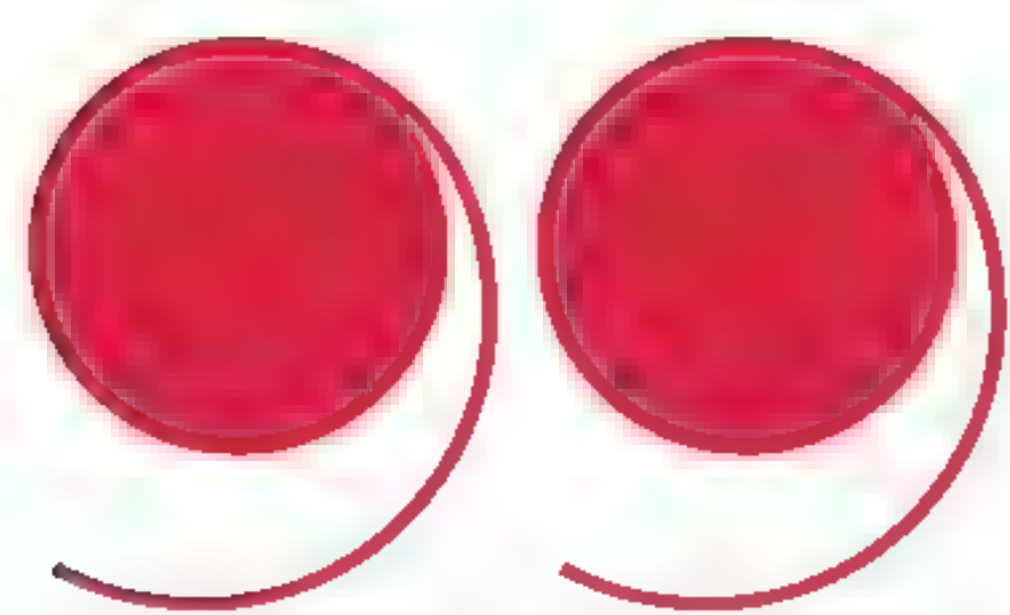
mourning weekend. It's funny how life works out sometimes. I still don't really know how I feel about the Queen dying, but I know that I am feeling something.

Last week marked the 13th anniversary of the day I moved to Britain, and it feels oddly fitting. You have no idea who you are at 13 and yet you spend a lot of time thinking about the person you may or may not be, the person you may or may not become.

I've been here for 13 years and I have no idea how I feel about this country anymore. My grandmother called me on Sunday and lightly poked fun at the naff pomp of it all – and my first instinct was to defend it. They've just lost a monarch, I wanted to tell her; you can't understand. Just leave them be.

That doesn't mean I will never poke fun at the silliness of Brits with her; it's one of our favourite pastimes, and I'm only human. I just didn't have it in me to join in on this, because it had touched me too.

Still, I wonder if King Charles will have the same effect on future generations of immigrants. It really did feel like a part of Britain died on Thursday, and you didn't have to be a royalist or to have been born here to recognise that. It felt like the beginning of the end. I'm glad I was here to witness it.



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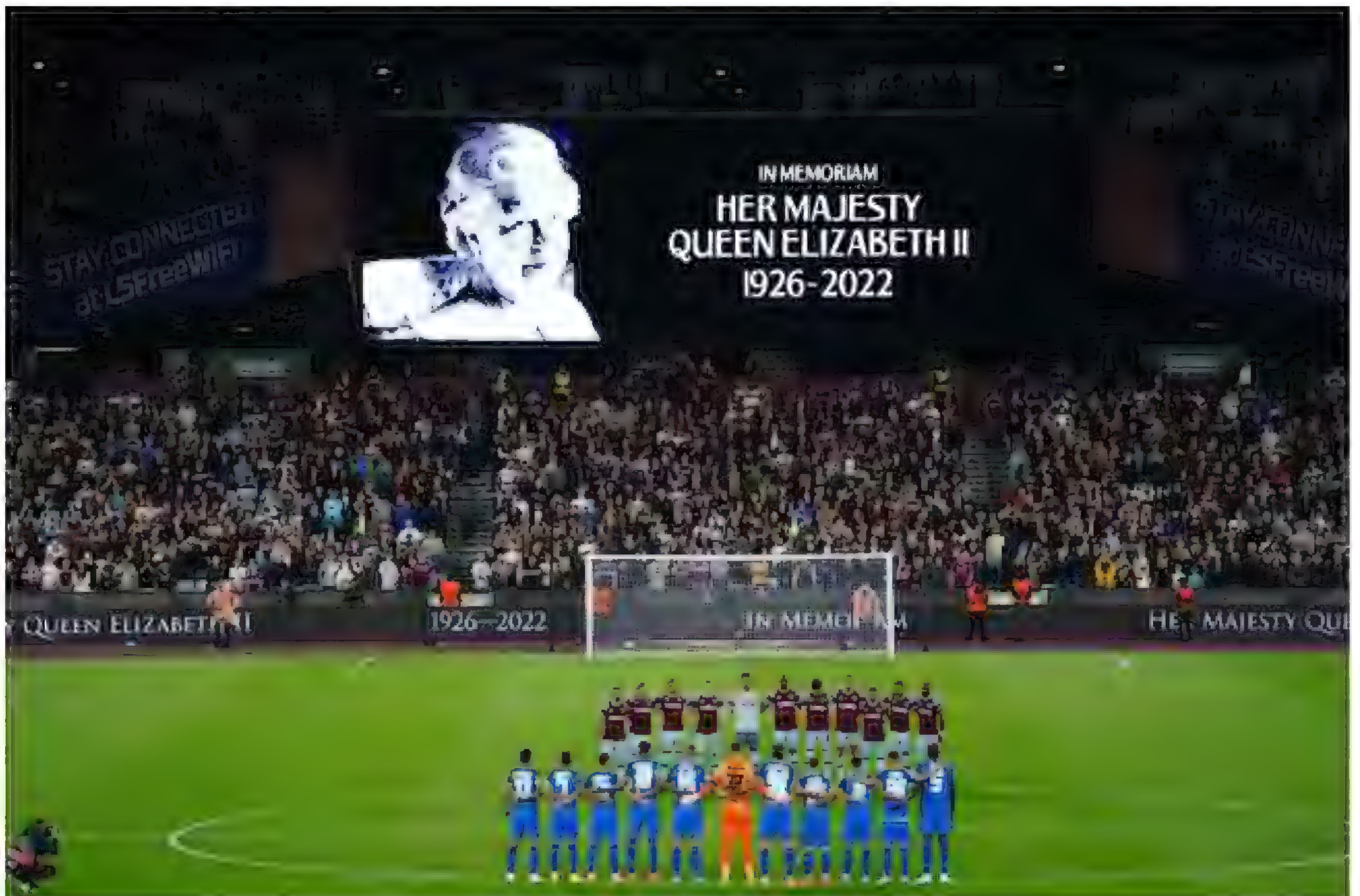
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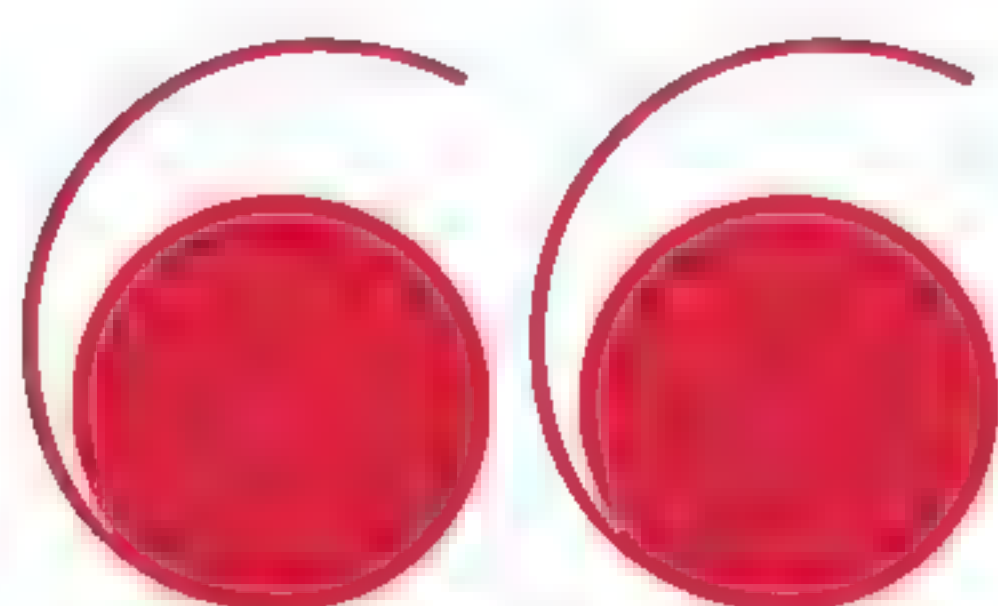


Football missed the target by postponing weekend fixtures

The national game had a shared history with the Queen and like all sports does remembrance well, writes **Ben Burrows**



Fans at the London Stadium on Thursday for the European tie between West Ham and FCSB were able to pay tribute (PA)



As sports up and down the country scrambled to decide how to proceed in the wake of the Queen's death on Thursday, many, understandably, looked to football for the example to follow.

The national game, as with many sports, has plenty of shared history with Her Majesty – she was a patron of the Football Association alongside Prince William and famously handed the World Cup to England captain Bobby Moore back in 1966.

It is with regret, then, that football chose to honour her passing in the wrong way.

Following a short meeting on Friday morning, all Premier League, Football League and – most inexplicably of all – grassroots matches were cancelled as a mark of respect. Other sports, in contrast, chose to continue with cricket, rugby union, rugby league and others deciding to play on.

Sport, for all its ills, does solemn remembrance very well. The scenes at The Oval on Saturday morning, with a capacity sporting crowd singing “God Save The King” for the first time in 70 years, were hugely moving and proof of that. Would similar scenes at the Etihad, Emirates or Elland Road not have been equally emotional showings of national mourning?

Such cancellations come with a tangible cost too. With the call made just 24 hours before many games were supposed to kick off, an entire economy of freelance workers, casuals and employees on zero-hour contracts were impacted, a number that tallies thousands across the game. Clubs themselves will take a hit in cancellation fees, which may not be a problem for the Premier League, but is a big one outside it.

It is not just a money issue either with food in huge quantities going to waste, and transportation and storage difficulties meaning not all of it can go to food banks.

You can't please everyone, of course. Indeed, many within football will have agreed with the fixture postponements. It feels significant though that in 1952, when King George VI died, and in 1936, when King George V passed, football played on.

“There was no rulebook,” a source told *The Independent* of the lack of precedent the game had to work with. The Department for Digital, Culture, Media and Sport did little to assist in that

regard either, offering no official mandate for sports to follow, instead leaving it up to each to decide for themselves.

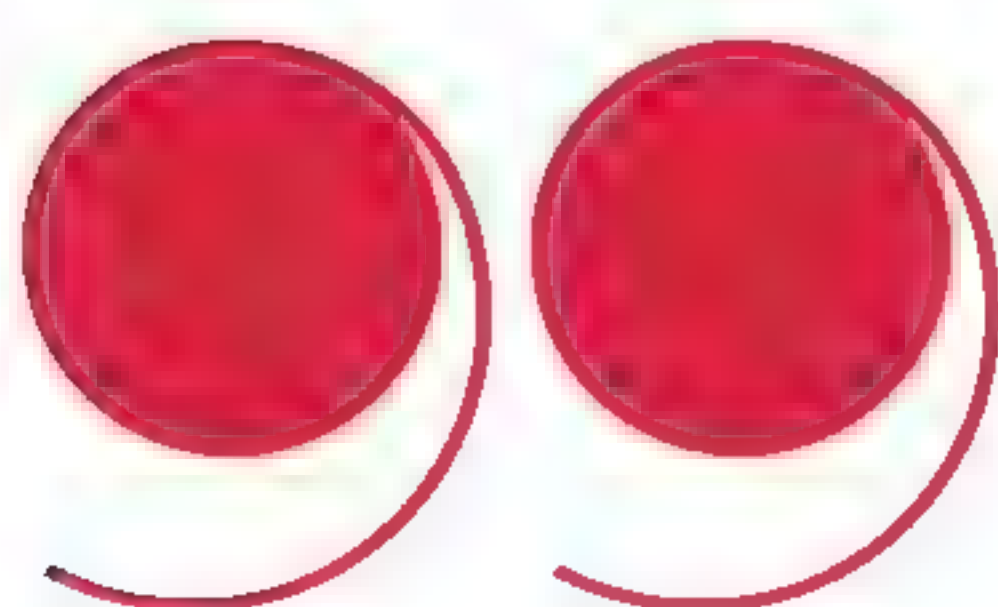
Whatever call football made was going to be criticised, that is the nature of things with decisions like this.

With so many watching and waiting there was only one decision football was ever going to make. The problem is it really does feel like the wrong one.

Yours,

Ben Burrows

Sports editor



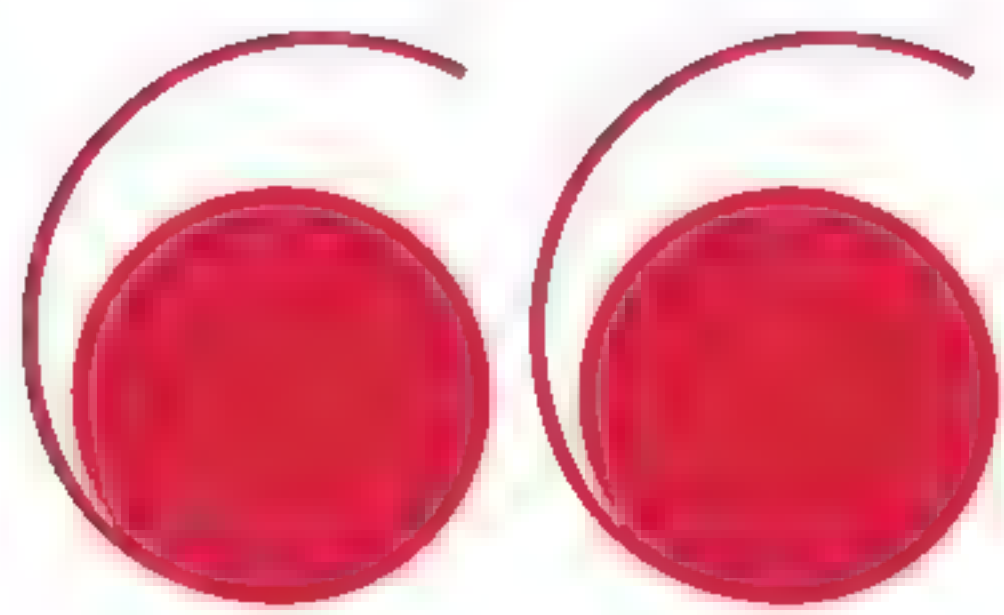
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Is it really essential for Truss to trail the King around?



It is with sadness but no surprise that I read of Liz Truss's decision to "be present" for the new King Charles III on his travels around the UK in the next few days.

There is no protocol or tradition for this, and surely she must already be exhausted by a summer of campaigning and running the Foreign Office? She has only been PM for a week and has a daunting brief to master as fast as possible.

It is hard to imagine she has had much sleep in the last few days, something that is essential for good quality decision-making. At this time of such huge challenges, not least the cost of living crisis, a war in Europe, a collapsing NHS and the real fear of energy shortages this winter, surely she should be using this hiatus in political activity to hunker down with her team (and even possibly her political opponents), climb that steep learning curve and get some early nights in her own bed in preparation for what is to come in the next few weeks and months!

It is her decisions, not the King's, that will determine our future as a country. I had hoped she may have taken the opportunity to show some real leadership by doing just that, but no. Her choice is for an exhausting travel schedule in pursuit of more high-profile photo ops. God save the King and God help us all!

Andrew A Jeffrey *Northamptonshire*

We don't all feel the same

I have lived my life in this country under the assumption that we live in a liberal democracy, where each unique individual with talents and feelings can make their own contribution to our society.

Consequently, I am disturbed when I hear journalists in the media disregarding our individuality and using sloppy phrases like “the whole of society is” and “as a nation we all feel”.

Because of our individuality, we are never all sad or happy, optimistic or pessimistic, celebrating or mourning.

It is even more foolish to hear a political leader say: “I am sure I speak for the whole nation when I say...”

Words have consequences and our media figures should realise that such thoughtless phrasing can fuel feelings of division and isolation.

John Dillon *Birmingham*

Civilised debate

In your letters page (Voices, yesterday), Penny Little bemoans the fact that it is impossible to disagree with the sentimental approach to mourning the death of the Queen, without attracting a backlash of criticism.

She is missing the point. If you express an opinion on *any* subject you run the risk of being attacked, mainly via social media, by people who disagree with you.

These attacks can range from the banal to the barbaric and have no place in civilised debate. We all have a right to express an opinion.

Bernard Cudd *Address supplied*

Hard-working MPs

Can someone please explain the purpose of such an expensive institution as the British parliament? After coming out of a Covid-caused lockdown, parliament went into summer recess. Having reconvened, we had the shenanigans of the long, drawn-out leadership campaign, during which we were told no major decisions would be taken.

The sad but not unexpected death of the Queen apparently means more disruption and delay, after which they will be off to the seaside for a week of jollies before the autumn recess. Hopefully, they will get some work done before the Christmas break.

Judging by the evidence provided by the televised proceedings of parliament, it seems that even when they are supposedly sitting, few turn up for debates.

G Forward *Stirling*

An American tribute to the Queen

I am an American, of English and Scottish descent, proud of my heritage, and certainly an Anglophile. I have long loved, admired and respected Queen Elizabeth II and wish to pay her tribute from across the pond.

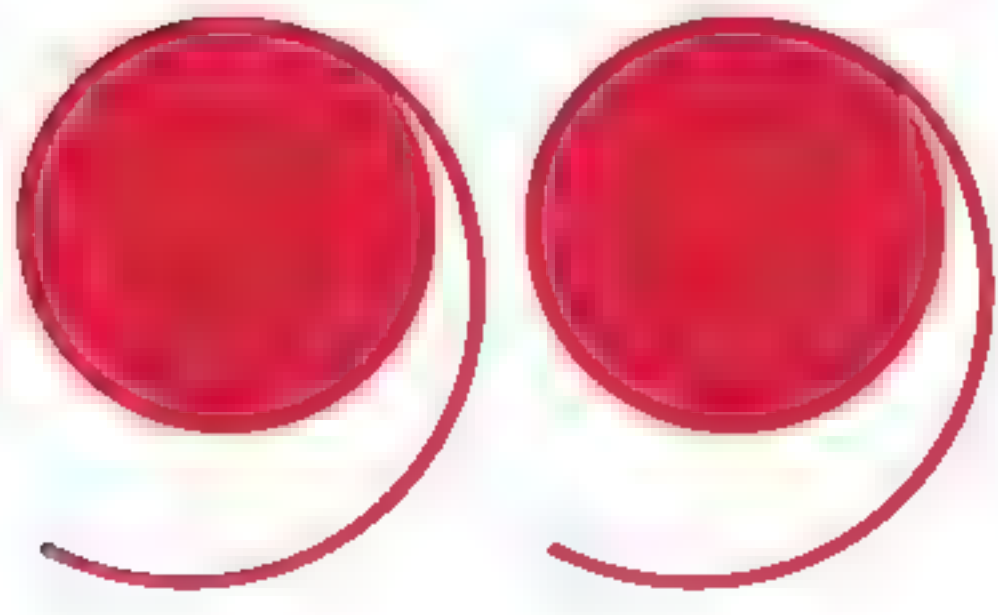
I saw Her Majesty once, but for a fleeting moment. I was on holiday in London, standing outside Buckingham Palace, awaiting the Changing of the Guard, when the gates opened and Her Majesty's car drove past. She was smiling and waving, wearing a mauve-tinted hat. That image will stay with me always, and the memory will forever adorn my heart.

In her absence, something has gone out of the world: a stalwart dignity, a quiet grace, a presence as steady and dependable as the rising and setting of the sun and the turning of the tides.

Grand she was, grand she will forever remain, in heart, in legacy, in memory. Thank you for sharing her with us and with the world. Long will she reign in our hearts.

I am grateful to have lived in the age of Elizabeth.

Michelle Lindsey *Charleston, South Carolina*



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Section 2/ The Big Read

THE WIND OF CHANGE

The Queen worked with 15 prime ministers, from Churchill to Truss. **John Rentoul** takes a look back at the relationships between the monarch and those at the apex of British politics



Former prime ministers (from left) Blair, Brown, Johnson, Cameron, May and Major ahead of the accession council ceremony at St James's Palace on Saturday (PA)

When Queen Elizabeth II came to the throne at the age of 25, the prime minister, Winston Churchill, was 77, and he treated her with elaborate gallantry. All the same, he was accused of

“steamrolling” the new Queen in the first decision she had to make, which was what her surname should be. Churchill favoured Windsor, because it sounded English, against Prince Philip, who wanted it to be Mountbatten. She set a pattern for her reign by not deciding: she allowed her government to go ahead with Windsor, although Philip won a compromise in 1960, with Mountbatten-Windsor being used for male-line descendants without royal titles.

When Churchill suffered a stroke in 1953, some of the Queen’s officials wondered whether she might have to suggest to him that he should stand down. Again, she decided by not deciding. Churchill recovered enough to carry on until he chose to retire in 1955. Then, as the Conservative Party had nothing so vulgar as leadership elections in those days, there was a danger that the royal prerogative might mean something, and that she would have to choose who his successor should be. Fortunately, everyone assumed it would be Anthony Eden, the deputy prime minister, so she asked him.

The courtly new prime minister turned out to be surprisingly stiff and formal. He was 57 when he finally achieved the office for which he had been marked out since first serving as foreign secretary in the 1930s. He was the first divorced prime minister, which was a big deal then, but the trickiest moment of his premiership was the Suez crisis. It was terminal for his reputation, and difficult for her, too: seeing all the secret telegrams, she knew enough to know that her prime minister was going behind the backs of the Americans, but perhaps did not know enough about foreign affairs to warn him that it was bound to end in tears.

Elizabeth II was still only 30 when another old man – Harold Macmillan was 60 – “emerged” from the mysterious processes of the aristocratic wing of the Tory party. It was an emergence that, again, she endorsed passively. According to Ben Pimlott’s biography, *The Queen*, Macmillan pursued a “chivalrous fantasy” as prime minister, writing her long, “obsequious” memos and receiving “friendly and informal” replies.

Foreign policy was again an important part of their relationship. With her growing confidence, which Macmillan's flattery encouraged, Queen Elizabeth took an interest in the development of the Commonwealth, as the "wind of change" blew through the legacy of empire and colonies became independent. Most newly independent countries remained members of the Commonwealth, but South Africa, which had been independent since 1931, renounced the Queen as head of state in 1961.



Winston Churchill and Princess Elizabeth pictured at the opening of a youth centre in Essex in 1951 (Getty)

Macmillan's parting shot was to induce her to make the most explicit intervention she ever made in politics, when she acted on his advice to invite his preferred candidate, Alec Douglas-

Home, to form a government when Macmillan resigned, thinking he was dying, in 1963. The cabinet would have preferred Rab Butler; Tory MPs would probably have liked Reginald Maudling; and Tory members might have wanted Quintin Hogg. Macmillan inveigled the Queen into what Pimlott called “the biggest political misjudgement of her reign” by choosing Home.

Home was the closest to her of all her prime ministers in terms of his background, interests and temperament. A family friend of the Bowes-Lyons, her mother’s family, who renounced his earldom to take over as Conservative leader to try to save the 1964 election, he was as dry as a matchstick, with an equally dry wit. But he wasn’t around for long – just a year.

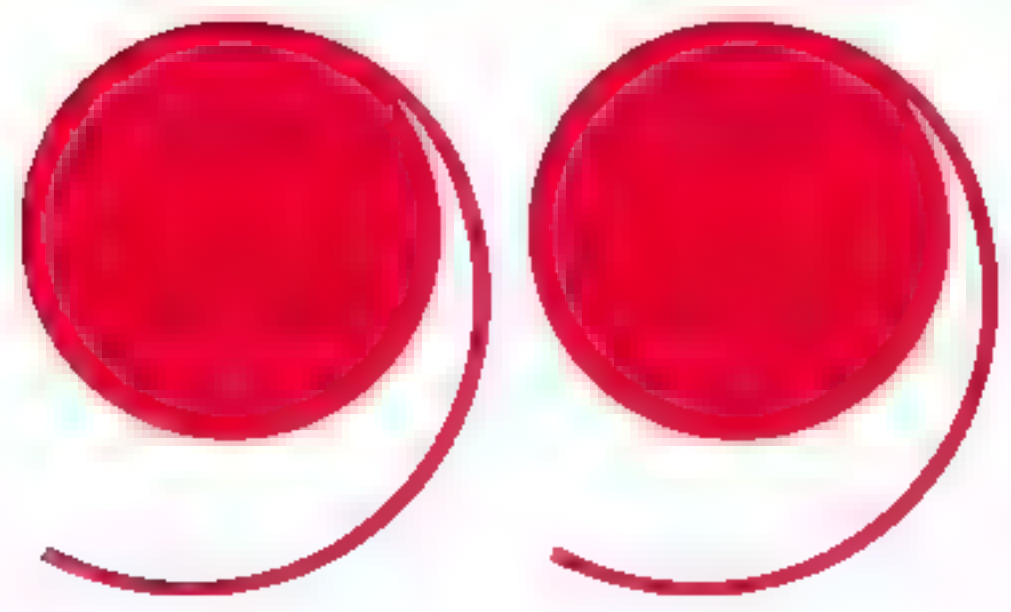
Harold Wilson could hardly have been more of a contrast. Their ages were closer (he was 48, she was 38), yet “he behaved towards her – unexpectedly – as an equal”, wrote Pimlott. She was “flattered by his eagerness to take her into his confidence”, and their audiences grew longer, which was noted with interest by the royal household.

By now she was in a position to advise Wilson on foreign affairs, knowing more than he did about the geopolitics of the USSR, China and Vietnam. She also sought to help the prime minister to deal with the crisis in Rhodesia, which declared independence in the name of the Queen. Wilson flew to Salisbury (now Harare) with a handwritten letter from the Queen to Ian Smith, the leader of the empire-loyalist white settlers, urging him to find a solution. Not that it did any good.

Wilson made great use of life peerages, which had been invented under Macmillan, and created no new hereditary peers, which changed the ecosystem in which the royal family lived. The Conservative Party modernised, too. After the cries of foul when Douglas-Home was imposed on them, Tory MPs voted for their next leader. Edward Heath defeated Maudling and Enoch Powell in the first ballot in 1965. Five years later, he won a general election against all expectations.



Conversation flowed easily, and could roam anywhere. There was even a flirtatious frisson. The prime minister would compliment the monarch on her clothes, and she would respond with banter



“Gallantry was not Heath’s style,” said Pimlott. “He could be abrupt to the point of rudeness, and had no small talk.” Nor did he see the need to win the Queen’s favour. “She was never comfortable with him,” said a former courtier. For Heath’s part, he wasn’t interested in the Commonwealth and didn’t see any role for the Queen in foreign affairs. His great plan was to join the European Community, in which she felt she had an interest because it involved sharing sovereignty, but which he regarded as a matter for himself and the House of Commons.

After Wilson returned, like an old friend, Queen Elizabeth was one of the few who knew in advance of his plan to stand down in the middle of a parliament. James Callaghan, who had also been tipped off, succeeded him and, like Wilson, was a devoted monarchist who enjoyed his audiences. “Conversation flowed easily, and could roam anywhere,” he recalled later. “There was even a flirtatious frisson,” Pimlott wrote. “The prime minister would compliment the monarch on her clothes, and she would respond with banter.”

Then came a turning point. Margaret Thatcher was not only the first female prime minister, but she was the same age as the Queen (53). In their relationship, said Pimlott, “there was a rigidity that never softened”. Their audiences “are dreaded by at

least one of them”, wrote Anthony Sampson in his *Anatomy of Britain*. The Queen’s unhappiness with Thatcher’s divisive social policies leaked into the daylight towards the end of her longest-serving prime minister’s tenure.

John Major was the first prime minister who was younger than the Queen. She was 64, he was 47. She “discovered in him a more relaxed, congenial visitor than his predecessor”, according to Pimlott. But they formed no special bond, despite his government and her family being, most of the time, in parallel states of permanent crisis. As the marriages of the Duke of York and the Prince of Wales collapsed in 1992, the Queen’s *annus horribilis*, Major’s government suffered its humiliation at the hands of the currency speculators, and was forced to struggle on for another five years.

Elizabeth II was now in her seventies; Tony Blair, the new prime minister and avowed moderniser, was 43. Like previous Labour prime ministers, he laid it on thick to reassure the public that he wasn’t a revolutionary. She reciprocated, saying in 1998: “I believe that there is an air of confidence in this country of ours just now.” This was her payback for Blair helping to save her from the anti-monarchical backlash in public opinion after the death of Diana, Princess of Wales, the previous year.



The Queen with (L to R) Bettino Craxi, Helmut Kohl, Ronald Reagan, Margaret Thatcher, Yasuhiro Nakasone and Francois Mitterrand at Buckingham Palace in 1984 (AFP/Getty)

But the relationship soured, for reasons that have never been clear. She seemed to resent Blair's advice on how to recover the monarchy's relationship with its people after Diana's death. It seems doubtful that the Queen would have cared about Cherie's failure to curtsy, or about having to sing "Auld Lang Syne" at the Millennium Dome. It is perhaps more likely that, if there were other reasons for the coolness, they were to do with the royal family's unhappiness about the ban on fox hunting, or with Blair having written about the royal family in his memoir.

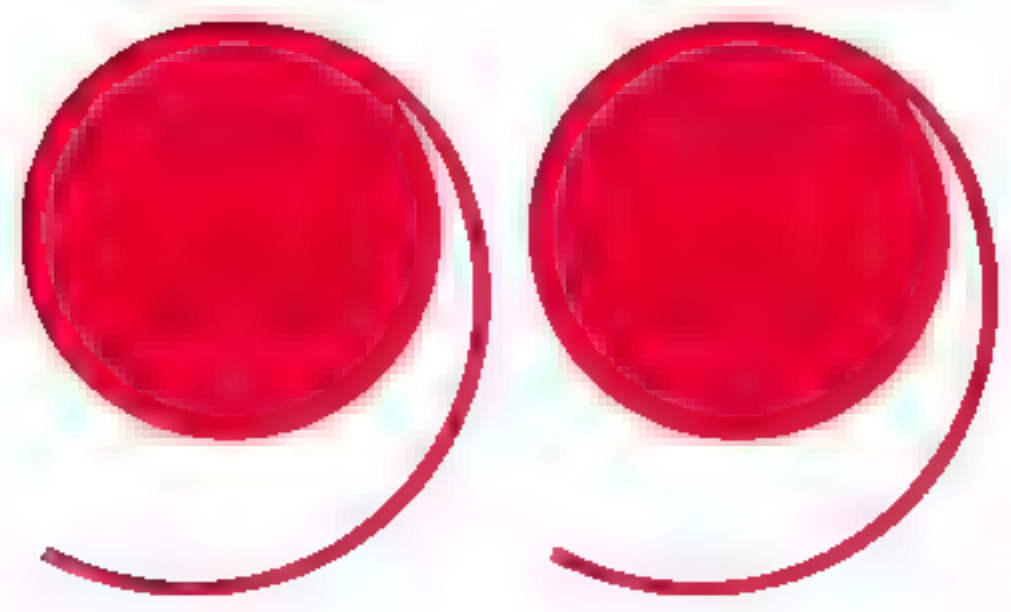
The Queen knew as little as the rest of us about what to expect from Gordon Brown, with whom she had had little to do while he was chancellor. It can be guessed that he was charming and solicitous in private, but almost nothing is known about their relationship. She once asked with an amused air, "Has the prime minister got lost?", when he wasn't in his place at a state banquet at Windsor. And she asked, "Why did no one see it coming?" about the financial crisis – later, when she was visiting a bank – but that did not seem to be aimed only at Brown.

Nevertheless, the royal family showed what it really thought of New Labour when neither Blair nor Brown was invited to the wedding of William and Catherine in 2011, when Thatcher, Major and David Cameron were. Then there was the long and unexplained delay in appointing Blair to the Order of the Garter, a personal award made by the Queen to the "persona non garter", which was finally announced at the start of this year.

Cameron, another 43-year-old, rosy-cheeked this time, was more of a "dosop" (definitely our sort of person), if not quite in the Douglas-Home bracket. Cameron's brother had used to come to tea at Windsor because he was at prep school with Edward. And Cameron got his job at Conservative Central Office after a call from someone who worked at the palace. Again, we can only guess at their relationship, as Peter Morgan tried to do in *The Audience*, a dramatisation starring Helen Mirren of the Queen's conversations with her first 12 prime ministers (later elaborated on in the TV series *The Crown*).



The image of Queen Elizabeth sitting alone in St George's Chapel, Windsor, at the funeral of Prince Philip, her husband, became part of the story of Johnson's fall



Cameron would presumably have been attentive, quick, and deferential without grovelling. More than most of his predecessors, he involved the Queen in politics, although she was keen to do what she could to try to keep the United Kingdom together in the Scottish independence referendum in 2014. Her precision-crafted comment to a member of the public outside church – that she hoped people would “think very carefully” before voting – may not have changed many minds, but it was another reinforcement. It was, however, Cameron's inadvertent revelation to an open microphone that she had “purred down the line” when told of the result that politicised the monarchy.

Hints of her opinions had been vouchsafed before and have been since. Her view of proportional representation was “not supportive”, according to Labour whip Joyce Gould when in 1997 Blair pondered electoral reform before shying away from it. And Michael Gove provided *The Sun* with a “Queen Backs Brexit” headline the month before the 2016 EU referendum, from comments she was alleged to have made at a lunch for privy counsellors the previous year. It is plausible that she was not unhappy about the undoing of Heath's work of 43 years before.

Her alleged opinions became controversial again after Brexit brought her a second female prime minister, Theresa May. It was reported that the Queen and Prince Philip were frustrated by May's unwillingness to discuss the government's plan for Brexit at her first visit to Balmoral, two months after she became prime minister.

Boris Johnson, her 14th prime minister, got Brexit done; although, if that is indeed what the Queen wanted, it might have been a case of swings and roundabouts, as leaving the EU threatened the other union that seemed to have been secured in 2014. Johnson got Brexit done at the cost of embarrassing the Queen: he was accused of misleading her about why he wanted her to suspend parliament in September 2019. The real reason was probably to create the impression of a constitutional crisis, in order to dramatise the deadlock in the House of Commons and make a general election seem necessary.



The Queen with then prime minister Tony Blair, Blair's wife Cherie, and Prince Philip in 2002 (Getty)

The prorogation of parliament, ostensibly to prepare for the Queen's Speech setting out the government's legislative programme, was not in itself a device to force Brexit, because parliament had already passed the Benn act, which prevented Britain from leaving the EU until the terms of withdrawal had been negotiated. But some Remainers were convinced that Johnson was up to no good, which helped to foment the air of crisis he desired.

The ruse was more successful than expected, however, when the Supreme Court unanimously ruled the prorogation unlawful – after the government’s lawyers had advised that it was all fine and there was no risk of dragging the crown into politics. If the Queen was annoyed at the way that tactic blew up, with the judges in effect contradicting her suspension of parliament, that telling-off has remained hidden behind the discretion that has veiled meetings between her and her prime ministers.

Johnson turned out to be one of the shorter-serving among them, however, despite his success in forcing a general election and winning it by a handsome margin. Again, although her own view of his tenure remained unknown, the image of Queen Elizabeth sitting alone in St George’s Chapel, Windsor, at the funeral of Prince Philip, her husband, became part of the story of Johnson’s fall. Much of the nation was offended on her behalf that a lockdown-breaking party had been held at Downing Street the night before the funeral. Although Johnson wasn’t there, he was widely blamed for the lax attitude towards coronavirus laws that seemed to characterise his time in No 10.

When he left office, the Queen insisted on appointing his successor, requiring Johnson and Liz Truss to fly to Balmoral for the handover of power. Prince Charles, who had read out the last Queen’s Speech on his mother’s behalf, could have made the appointment at Buckingham Palace as usual, but one of the Queen’s last acts was to fulfil her constitutional duty. Thus her relationship with her 15th and final prime minister was a short one, consisting of a single conversation of no longer than half an hour.

The Queen’s prime ministers came and went, were acclaimed and, more usually, reviled. She carried on, always popular and respected, except for one moment of incipient crisis in 1997, from which she soon recovered. As one friend for half a century said to Pimlott: “The Queen’s strength is that she doesn’t change very much.”

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Section 2/ Lifestyle

‘I’m no monarchist, but...’

Many Brits who otherwise swear off the royals have admitted to experiencing pangs of grief in the wake of the Queen’s death. **Tom Ough** finds out why republicans are grieving



A tribute to Her Majesty left outside Buckingham Palace this weekend (Getty)

Two common refrains have followed news of the death of the Queen. One of those is “God save the King.” The other is “I’m not a monarchist, but...”

That second refrain, like the first, has been repeated time and again. “I’m not a monarchist,” tweeted the Canadian writer Chris Jones, “but I fear the slow ebb of her omnipresence, in an already chaotic age, is going to be deeply unsettling for a lot of people.”

“I’m not a monarchist,” wrote the Labour activist Tom Bowell, “but I’m a patriot, I love this country, I respect our institutions and I always carried a deep respect for the Queen. For most of us, she was a constant in an ever-changing world.”

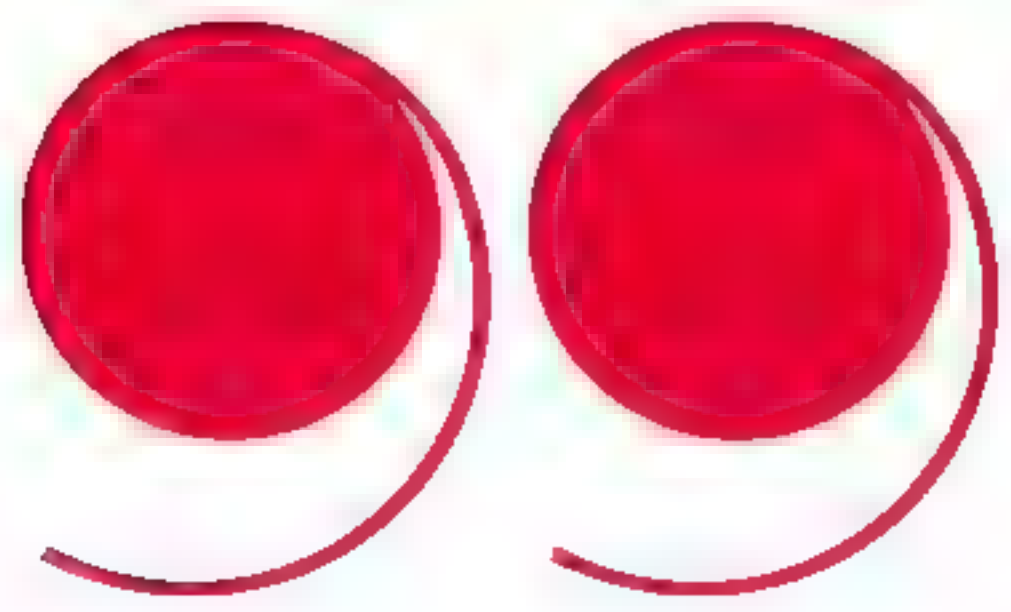
The phrase was everywhere. Sometimes it served as warning that a terrible, Boomerish meme was incoming, but usually it was a signal of everything from grudging respect to open mourning. “I’m not a monarchist but the pollen count must be high or something.” “I’m not a monarchist, but I had a lot of respect for the Queen and how seriously she took her duties.” “I’m not a monarchist, but she was a classy broad and we will long for her erelong.” “I’m not a monarchist. But I felt very sad yesterday about the passing of the Queen, who I respected as a very hard-working woman.”

Eventually the phrase was subsumed by boring meta-commentators chastising people for not being republican enough. But why was the sentiment so common? What conflicted part of the British psyche did it articulate? Support for the monarchy varies by generation – it tallies at 33 per cent of those in the 18-24 age bracket, versus 77 per cent of those aged 65 or more – but perhaps it cuts internally, too.

Stephen Reicher, a professor of social psychology at the University of St Andrews, explains that if someone identifies as British, then the Queen becomes a part of their collective identity, part of their Britishness. We have the illusion of feeling as if we know her. “You will see people weeping because, in losing the Queen, there is a genuine sense of losing some part of yourself, losing some part of what defined you, or was important to you,” he says.



There's going to be that sense of personal connection, that genuine sense of grief. And there will be many people who go along because it's a significant event, because it's a piece of history



People who see the Queen in a less positive way – as a symbol of hierarchy, for instance, or as one of Empire – tend not have those same feelings, says Reicher. Britain is unusual in that its national anthem celebrates our being reigned over rather than celebrating great national deeds or landscapes, he adds. Many Britons might not approve of the emphasis on deference. “But there can be an acknowledgment that, as a person, the Queen has done things they think of as important, that she’s shown a service.”

And so they might be surprised by their sadness, as Henry James was when Queen Victoria died. In 1901, the novelist wrote: “I mourn the safe and motherly old middle-class queen, who held the nation warm under the fold of her big, hideous Scotch-plaid shawl and whose duration had been so extraordinarily convenient and beneficent. I felt her death much more than I should have expected; she was a sustaining symbol – and the wild waters are upon us now.”

Grief can come from a more personal part of our psyches than our sense of collective identity. “What is fascinating, what’s powerful about this,” says Reicher, “is precisely the way in which the political and the personal come together, and the way in which the Queen’s death, and the Queen as a symbol of

motherhood, begin to touch you and begin to affect you in terms of your own relationships.

“So it makes you think about the losses you’ve had, it makes you think about the grief that you’ve had, it makes you think about how conflicts within the family suddenly seem meaningless when something like death happens.”



Crowds gather to see Queen Elizabeth II's coffin as a procession moves along the Royal Mile, Edinburgh (Getty)

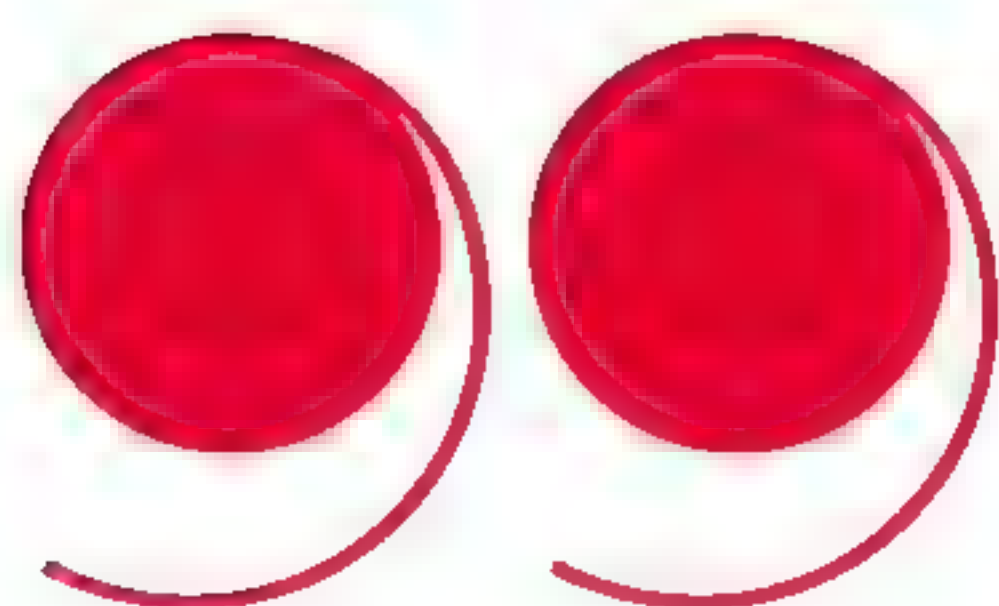
Reicher says that the Queen and the monarchy therefore become something like screens onto which we project our own emotions. When the Queen died, he says, he was reminded of the death of his mother and found himself unexpectedly saddened. “Personally, I’m not a monarchist. I was saddened precisely because it evokes for me what happened to my mum. I think that for many of us, because of the ways in which the Queen has been constructed as the mother of the nation, even if intellectually you reject that, at the same time you can’t help but to some extent take it on board.”

People take part in the pageantry of grieving, Reicher points out, for varied reasons. “There’s going to be that sense of personal connection, that genuine sense of grief. And there will be many people who go along because it’s a significant event, because it’s a piece of history.”

What some people will seek, and what many more will find, is what the sociologist Emile Durkheim called “collective effervescence”. Someone in a crowd of mourners might at first wonder whether they’re mad to be in that crowd, says Reicher, but they will find their worries allayed by the pleasure of being caught up in a group of people feeling the same things as them. “There’s that sense of validation and closeness to others,” he says. “There’s a sense of recognition. You go into the crowd, and whereas in everyday life, people ignore you, here people smile at you, they chat to you, they share food with you, and so on.”



I was indifferent, or even anti-monarchy. Then I became an expat, and boom – suddenly I felt like I loved the Queen



Klara Jurstakova, of Canterbury Christ Church University, echoes Reicher’s points about the royal family reminding us, monarchist or not, of our own families. Human psychologies vary; even when we do the same things, we do it for different reasons. “Being a non-monarchist does not mean that people only have that single identity,” says Jurstakova, who researches group processes and social identity. “They have multiple identities, and in extraordinary instances such as the Queen’s passing, when she was part of people’s lives and discussions for the last 70 years, we can expect that for many people, whether non-monarchists, monarchists or any others, this event will have some impact. They might want to take part in such a historical moment, pay their respect, or simply observe others.”

Sanya-Jeet Thandi, a 29-year-old Briton who emigrated to California in 2021, is a case in point. She has historically been sceptical about the monarchy on account of its association with the Empire. “I was indifferent, or even anti-monarchy,” she says. “Then I became an expat, and boom – suddenly I felt like I loved the Queen, and possibly all things classically British. The Platty Joobs made me so emotional and proud of being born and raised British.”

“I know it’s bizarre, and I’m almost disappointed in myself,” she continues. “I think it’s a classic immigrant experience, though – my parents are the same about India. As soon as people relocate they start clinging onto all things related to their previous or original home.”

Whatever its origins, the grief people feel at the Queen’s death is likely to consolidate their sense of Britishness. It might even mint a new generation of reluctant royalists. None of this will make it any easier to reconcile emotional investment in royals with support for their abolition, but if there’s one thing that’s as British as loving the Queen, it’s feeling vexed about matters of national identity. In some ways, her death has changed Britain irrevocably; in this particular way, it hasn’t changed us at all.

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Section 2/ Ask Simon Calder

I want to pay my respects to the Queen but the train trip costs hundreds of pounds



Well-wishers lay flowers for Queen Elizabeth II in St James's Park, London (Getty)

Q We are looking at trains to go up to London to pay our respects to the Queen. We can travel tomorrow from Taunton but the fare is £570 return for two – with a railcard. Or on another day from Stafford for £470 return. How is this helping ordinary people join in the historic events? Rail companies – be ashamed of yourselves.

Name supplied

A Fortunately there are plenty of ways of reaching London for less than that. I believe you have looked at the early trains from Taunton; if you are prepared to arrive at London Paddington at 10.06am or later, the off-peak return fare for two falls to £236 return – still a lot, I agree, but 60 per cent less than the figure you started with.

If you are prepared to travel out from Taunton at 10.04am (arriving 12.06pm) or later, then you qualify for a super off-peak ticket costing £178 for two. With your railcard (which is unlikely to be valid before then), the price will be £117.50 – which looks reasonable to me. That's less than £60 each for a 300-mile round trip.

From Stafford, the savings are even greater if you are flexible about timing, because you can take advantage of the slightly slower trains and much lower fares on London Northwestern Railway. In return for taking half an hour longer than Avanti West Coast, you can get a train that arrives at London Euston at 10.30am for £90 return for the pair of you. If you choose a train on which you can use your railcard, the total is a slim £59.40.

There is a wider issue behind your question, which is: why don't train firms do away with peak pricing over the next week, so everyone can take advantage off-peak tickets? I have asked a number of long-distance operators that question, and my understanding is that the Department for Transport will need to sign off such a decision. While it may look as though the rail companies might need to feel some shame, in fact it is ministers who will decide; they call all the shots in the railway now.

Email your question to s@hols.tv or tweet [@simoncalder](https://twitter.com/simoncalder)

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Section 2



ON THIS DAY



The fashion designer Stella McCartney is 51 today (Getty)

490BC: The Greeks defeated the Persians under Darius at the Battle of Marathon. Philippides had run 150 miles in two days in a futile attempt to ask the Spartans to assist the Greek army, but in the end their help was not required.

1321: Italian poet Dante Alighieri died in Ravenna.

1759: The British under General Wolfe won the Battle of Quebec – but Wolfe was shot and died in the fighting.

1788: New York became federal capital of the new United States of America.

1874: Composer Arnold Schoenberg was born in Vienna. As a triskaidekaphobe (someone afraid of the number 13), he predicted he would die on the 13th at the age of 76 ($7+6=13$). He did, on 13 July 1951 at 13 minutes to midnight. His last word was "harmony".

1909: The first performance took place of Oscar Strauss's *The Chocolate Soldier*, the operetta based on George Bernard Shaw's *Arms and the Man*. It introduced the famous song "My Hero".

1915: The process for making breakfast cereal flakes was patented by Frank Martin, as previously the combination of corn, oats and grain had proved indigestible for the public.

1944: William Heath Robinson, the English artist known for his drawings of complex machinery that performed simple tasks, died.

1957: *The Mousetrap*, a murder-mystery, became Britain's longest-running play, reaching its 1,998th performance.

1985: The World Health Organisation declared Aids a worldwide epidemic.

2008: Hurricane Ike ravaged parts of Texas and Louisiana, battering the US coast with 110mph gusts of wind and torrential rain.

On this day last year: Runners who took on the Brighton Marathon nearly went the extra mile – after organisers said the course was too long.

Birthdays

Jacqueline Bisset, actor, 78; **Don Was**, music producer, 70; **Bobby Davro**, comedian, 64; **Zak Starkey**, rock musician, 57; **Michael Johnson**, former athlete, 55; **Goran Ivanisevic**, former

tennis player, 51; **Stella McCartney**, fashion designer, 51; **Niall Horan**, singer (One Direction), 29.

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Section 2/ IndyBest



SEAL THE DEAL

Lydia Willgress takes a dip with the best swimming earplugs



Swimming costume? Tick. Goggles? Tick. Towel? Tick. This was the standard checklist when we left the house to hit the pool. But whether you're a pool swimmer or prefer a dip in the wild, there's one product that will make your swim even better: earplugs.

Rewind a couple of years and we had no idea of the importance of earplugs. But they are arguably a key swimming accessory, helping to prevent water and bacteria from entering the ear canal, and reducing the chances of infection and “swimmer’s ear”. They can also help to tune out background noise.

When looking to purchase swimming earplugs, you’ll want to find a pair that fits comfortably and (obviously) doesn’t let water in. To do this, you should consider whether a unisex “one size fits all” model suits you, or whether you’d prefer a different, tailored bud size. This could include choosing a brand with different size earplugs or one that allows you to customise your own self-moulding pair.

You should also consider whether you would benefit from any extras, such as a case or straps to keep them attached to goggles. Finally, we’d recommend buying a colourful pair – there’s nothing worse than trying to spot blue earplugs at the bottom of a pool mid-swim (or in a river, mid-triathlon).

How we tested

We have tested swimming earplugs for the last couple of years, dipping back into the market this summer to test new entrants. We used them during sessions in our local pool and swimming pond, concentrating on design, effectiveness and comfort. We’ve rounded up the best below – so whether you’re a fair-weather swimmer, a hardened triathlete or a regular pool goer, we can guarantee there’s a pair for you.



Bollsen watersafe+ earplugs: £24.95, Bollsen

Bollsen's watersafe+ earplugs tick all the right boxes. Great fit? Tick. No leaking? Check. Comfortable? Definitely. Noise insulation too? Yes. We could leave it there, but we'll elaborate for those who like a few extra details.

These are made from medical silicone, with a tiered design that – unlike some of the others on the market – is more like a cone than an arrow. This means they fill the ear canal nicely, preventing any water from entering whether you are in rough seas or the pool. It also means that bespoke bud size isn't as important as they naturally adapt to the size of the canal. They have special sound filter technology, which we found effectively limited loud noises while enabling us to hear conversations clearly to ensure we stayed safe (and could chat with friends without removing them).

Bollsen says they are reusable 100 times. Over the last 12 months we've got close to this landmark and can confirm we still haven't had any issues with them. The brand also offers significant discounts if you buy more than one pair (two pairs are £39.95, while three are £49.95) and you get a metal case that can attach to your keys so you won't ever lose them. It's a no-brainer.

Buy now



Happy Ears ocean plastics discovery pack: £25.50, Happy Ears

It went down to the wire when deciding the best earplugs for 2022 – and it was all because of these eco-friendly pairs from Happy Ears. Made from ocean plastics, these not only perform well but they do their bit for the planet at the same time. These were our favourites for the pool, with their oval-shaped heads helping them sit nicely in the ear canal without letting in any water. They also reduce noise, without muffling the voices of those closest to you so you'll still be able to hear instructions from the lifeguard. The discovery pack includes a small, medium and large size so you can find what is right for you. Plus, the packaging can be recycled and composted. What more could you want?

Buy now



SurfEars 3.0: £49.95, SurfEars

SurfEars was kickstarted in 2011 by a surfer who had the misfortune of suffering from a serious ear infection that was so bad he went deaf in one ear for nearly a week. This personal story makes all the difference when it comes to the quality of these earplugs; they have definitely been designed with swimmers and surfers in mind.

We loved that this product came with changeable parts, allowing us to try out the buds and choose a size that stayed secure without being uncomfortable. Different coloured buds mean you'll never get mixed up between the left and right and buyers also get an optional adjustable leash, which we used to secure the earplugs to our goggles, which helped to keep the earplugs in place. This would have made them easier to find if they'd fallen out – although we didn't get a chance to test this theory as they stayed put throughout all of our sessions.

The brand also says they have close to zero acoustic loss when it comes to human speech, meaning you can still hear your mates or any important instructions from the life or coast guard.

As well as being suitable for swimming, these are also great for divers, kayakers and surfers. While they are one of the more expensive pairs on the market, we won't be hitting the water any time soon without these.

Buy now



Auritech water sports earplugs: £19.95, Auritech

Auritech is a specialist earplug brand that has been developing products for more than 20 years. Luckily for us, this has included a pair specifically for swimming and water sports.

The first thing we noticed about these earplugs was the comprehensive instructions on the back of the packet, helping us to insert them properly before entering the pool (hint: pull your ear back before inserting and twist gently to remove). Made from silicone-free thermoplastic, we found the design protected well against water. The patented sound filter is genuinely effective and doesn't muffle noise, making them particularly good during races.

They also come with a metal storage tube, which can be attached to a key ring to stop you from searching through your bag every time you want to find them.

Buy now



Boots swimming earplugs: £4.70, Boots

These swimming earplugs by Boots are a good choice if you're new to the pool and looking for a basic design to help keep water out of your ears. Despite the fact they are the cheapest pair we tried (£4.70 amazingly gets you two pairs), their ribbed design meant they sealed water out well. Our hearing wasn't impaired and they also come with two small plastic carry cases, helping to keep them clean and making them easy to find in our gym bag.

While they are washable and reusable, Boots advises that they are only suitable for up to 10 swims in either chlorinated or sea water, which means you'll be having to buy quite a lot of pairs if you're a regular swimmer. We also found ourselves searching on the bottom of the pool a couple of times after they fell out during front crawl. Overall, this cheap and cheerful pair is great for a beginner swimmer – but more regular pool goers might want to look elsewhere.

Buy now



View 2 way silicone earplugs: £6.50, Mailsports

These earplugs come with handy straps, which can be attached to your goggles, making them pretty much impossible to lose. We loved this feature and found it boosted our confidence, particularly during outdoor sessions and in the sea. We're also pleased to report it's definitely not style over substance. The three-tiered design means they not only block out water, but also any unnecessary background noise. Made from soft silicone, these are super comfortable. And at just over a fiver for one pair, they're good value too.

Buy now



Mack's ear seals dual purpose earplugs: £6.95, Amazon

Mack's is the official ear care of USA Swimming. Luckily, the brand has also made its way across the pond, with its huge variety of products available at a number of UK-based retailers. We tested Mack's ear seals earplugs, which not only prevented water from entering the ear canal but can also be used at concerts, sporting events and when using loud tools.

We found they were pretty effective, with their four-tiered design and solid core making them both sturdy and comfortable. The detachable cord added to our confidence, as we didn't worry about taking them out at all, and you get a free case too. At £6.95, we think this is decent value.

Buy now



Nike training aids ear plugs: £7.20, Wiggle

With Nike, you know you'll always be getting a good product. And these earplugs, which are part of the brand's training aid collection, are no different. Made from soft rubber, the "double flange" design is flexible and moulds to your ear from first use. They also have the added bonus of a flared end, making you doubly sure you won't get water in your ears.

We found they were particularly good in the pool and held firm even during flip turns and butterfly. They come with a clear reusable carrying case, which features the classic Nike tick, so you can be certain you're storing them hygienically – even if they end up at the bottom of your gym bag. We also loved the bright design. It's a big thumbs up from us.

Buy now



ZenPlugs swim custom moulded earplug kit: £18.74, ZenPlugs

We are always nervous about custom moulded earplugs – but we needn't have worried about this pair. Yes, you need to be patient when moulding them and you might get funny looks from housemates or family members (it requires a boiling mug of water and some lubricant). But once you've gone through the process, which takes around 15 minutes, then you're good to go.

We found this pair created a solid seal to block water and stayed secure throughout sessions, only losing them once during a particularly vigorous front crawl. We didn't have any issues finding them, however, as they come with a cord and a brightly coloured float which means they remain on the surface of the water.

We haven't had to do it, but the brand promises you can remould the earplugs if they become damaged. The only thing we were longing for was a small case to help keep them clean. Otherwise, they are a good buy.

Buy now



Speedo biofuse aquatic earplugs: £7.50, Speedo

Speedo prides itself on its high-quality swimwear and accessories. So it should be no surprise that the brand's biofuse aquatic earplugs are comfortable and highly effective. Their ergonomic design, which features multiple layers, led to a secure fit and stopped any water entering the ear canal.

The product also includes Speedo's "biofuse technology", which the brand says is "designed to perform in complete harmony with your body". They are certainly comfortable and soft to the touch. The blue and grey buds are thinner than some of the other pairs we tried, which suited us, but is worth considering – particularly if you've previously had issues with earplugs falling out during swims. For £7.50, buyers get one pair and a plastic carry case to help keep them hygienic.

Buy now



Zoggs silicone earplugs: £7, Zoggs

We found this pair by Zoggs easy to shape and as effective as most others on the market. For those who are nervous about self-moulding earplugs, the packet has handy instructions on the back, which recommends shaping the earplugs to fit your outer ear (plus, you can reform the plugs into a ball to reshape if needed). We would recommend you spend some time getting the fit right when they first arrive otherwise they are liable to fall out – and are a pain to spot in the water. You do get two pairs (and a reusable carry case) for £7, however, making them among the cheapest on the market.

Buy now

The verdict

There are plenty of swimming earplugs on the market – but with big differences in price and design it can be hard to determine the best pair to purchase. We loved the watersafe+ earplugs from specialist brand Bollsen, but there was close competition from Happy Ears' eco-friendly pairs and SurfEars with its 3.0 design.

ZenPlugs' custom kit is great if you want a bespoke fit, while View's 2 silicone earplugs have a handy strap. Whatever you go for, we're sure you'll have a satisfying swim.

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Section 2/ Arts



AUTUMN ALMANAC

Our critics choose the season's cultural highlights in a guide to what to book and binge-watch, from Netflix's 'Blonde' and 'The Crown' to a Lucian Freud retrospective and beyond



That's entertainment: (from left) Taylor Swift, Lucian Freud, 'Blonde', 'The Crown' and Kendrick Lamar provide autumn's essential pleasures (Getty/National Gallery/Netflix)

Autumn is bringing the goods: blockbuster exhibitions, star-studded stage shows, a double whammy of major albums, and

TV shows sure to get the nation talking. Here's what you won't want to miss, as chosen by our critics.

Art

Lucian Freud: New Perspectives

From early promise to obscurity in the Sixties and late-career glory as “Britain’s greatest artist”, Lucian Freud’s status has had its ups and downs. If his prestige has slightly dipped since his death in 2011, this first major exhibition in a decade, featuring works from the full 70 years of his career, is sure to put him back in the spotlight. It will be interesting to see how his somewhat dour vision, forged amid post-war austerity, goes down in the current straitened climate. *National Gallery, 1 October to 22 January; nationalgallery.org.uk*

Cezanne



Modern master: Paul Cezanne's 'Bathers' circa 1894-1905 (National Gallery)

A grumpy old man who spent his time tramping the hills of his native Provence, Paul Cezanne might seem an unlikely contender for the title of father of modern art. But it doesn't get much better than Cezanne on top form, as generations of artist-followers from Monet and Picasso to Frank Auerbach will attest. This first full career survey in a British gallery in 25 years brings together 80 key works for a “once-in-a-generation” show. *Tate Modern, 5 October to 12 March; tate.org.uk*

William Kentridge

From exquisite artist books to epic theatrical productions, the veteran South African artist isn't afraid of big transitions in scale. Including immersive 3-screen animated films and enormous tapestries, Kentridge's biggest British exhibition to date takes on the RA's vast Main Galleries. Following on from landmark exhibitions in these spaces by the likes of Ai Wei Wei, Anish Kapoor and Antony Gormley, Kentridge has no option but to produce a show that is heroic in scale and ambition. *Royal Academy, 24 September to 11 December; royalacademy.org.uk*

Carolee Schneemann: Body Politics



High art: Carolee Schneemann's 'Up to and Including Her Limits' is part of the Barbican's exhibition (Henrik Gaard Carolee Schneemann Papers)

An uproarious look at the seminal feminist performance artist whose naked performances included roller-skating the length of a high-speed train and getting a group of her fellow artists to roll around in raw meat. Long marginalised, Schneemann is now hailed for turning the female body into a medium of expression. From New York at its Sixties artistic highpoint to grimy post-Swinging London, the show brilliantly evokes an era of truly explosive creativity. *Barbican Art Gallery, 8 September to 8 January; barbican.org.uk*

Mark Hudson

Theatre

The Crucible



I accuse: Erin Doherty, pictured in rehearsal, stars in 'The Crucible' (Johan Persson)

Arthur Miller wrote *The Crucible* (brief synopsis: it's a witch hunt!) in 1953, just a few years before he was hauled before Joe McCarthy's House Un-American Activities Committee as a suspected communist. Will the National Theatre's revival prove it to be the defining play of our febrile, suspicious, social media-riddled times? The vast Olivier Auditorium is a notoriously tricky stage to get right, but this production has a few things on its side: *The Crown* star Erin Doherty as chief accuser Abigail, and the incisive Lyndsey Turner directing. *National Theatre*, 14 September to 5 November; nationaltheatre.org.uk

Tammy Faye

Tammy Faye Bakker, larger-than-life 1980s TV evangelist and supreme eyeshadow wearer, got the biopic treatment last year with *The Eyes of Tammy Faye*. But was a mediocre Oscar-bait movie really the best way to serve such a surreal and outlandish figure? More appropriate, perhaps, is this enjoyably OTT-sounding musical, written by Elton John, Scissor Sisters frontman Jake Shears, and playwright James Graham. For its premiere at the Almeida, Olivier winner Katie Brayben plays Bakker, with Andrew Rannells as her husband Jim. Tickets have

been completely snapped up already, but keep an eye on the website for returns. *Almeida Theatre, 13 October to 3 December; almeida.co.uk*

My Neighbour Totoro



Fantastic friend: an adaptation of 1988 film 'My Neighbour Totoro' debuts at the Barbican (Studio Ghibli)

If the idea of Studio Ghibli brought to life on stage makes you do a little gasp of joy, you're not the only one: the RSC's forthcoming adaptation of 1988 film *My Neighbour Totoro* broke the Barbican's box office records for the most ticket sales in one day. No mean feat, since the title previously belonged to the Benedict Cumberbatch *Hamlet* that sent everyone into a tizz in 2015. The show, about two sisters who move to the countryside to be near their mother and end up making friends with a giant grey cat in the forest, is being made in collaboration with Joe Hisaishi, the composer of the original music. *Barbican, 8 October to 21 January, 2023; barbican.org.uk*

Eureka Day

Our thoughts and prayers are with those who booked, pre-pandemic, to see Timothee Chalamet perform at the Old Vic and were finally told this year that it was off the cards. But one of London's oldest theatres has no trouble attracting Hollywood stars: this month, Oscar winner Helen Hunt will star in Jonathan Spector's new comedy *Eureka Day*, a play about a mandatory vaccine roll-out at a school beset by a mumps outbreak. *Old Vic, until 31 October; oldvictheatre.com*

Jessie Thompson

Dance

Made in Leeds: Three Short Ballets, Northern Ballet

Three bright choreographers create new works in Northern Ballet's latest programme. *Wailers*, by award-winning Mthuthuzeli November, was inspired by the struggles of not knowing where the next meal comes from and by the warmth of family and community. In *Ma Vie*, hip-hop choreographer Dickson Mbi explores the life of Casanova, from his notorious love affairs to his relationship with the church. Stina Quagebeur's *Nostalgia* looks at longing and finding connection. 10 to 17 September, Leeds Playhouse; 1 to 3 November, Royal Opera House; northernballet.com

New Crystal Pite, The Royal Ballet



Expanded horizon: 'Flight Pattern' from 2019 gets a broader treatment at the Royal Opera House (Tristram Kenton)

Pite is one of the most in-demand and thoughtful choreographers working today, from her command of surging massed movement to her witty, sharp-edged dramas. Created for The Royal Ballet in 2017, *Flight Pattern* was inspired by the refugee crisis, set to the first movement of Gorecki's Symphony of Sorrowful Songs. Pite now revisits and expands the work, using the full-length symphony. Royal Opera House, 18 October to 3 November; roh.org.uk

Ek / Forsythe / Quagebeur, English National Ballet

Under departing director Tamara Rojo, English National Ballet have had a flair for building relationships with big-name choreographers. This autumn, renowned Swedish choreographer Mats Ek creates a new version of *The Rite of Spring* for the company, taking on Stravinsky's monumental score and its themes of sacrifice and renewal. It's performed alongside William Forsythe's lyrical *Blake Works I*, and Stina Quagebeur's bouncy *Take Five Blues*. *Sadler's Wells*, 9 to 12 November; sadlerswells.com

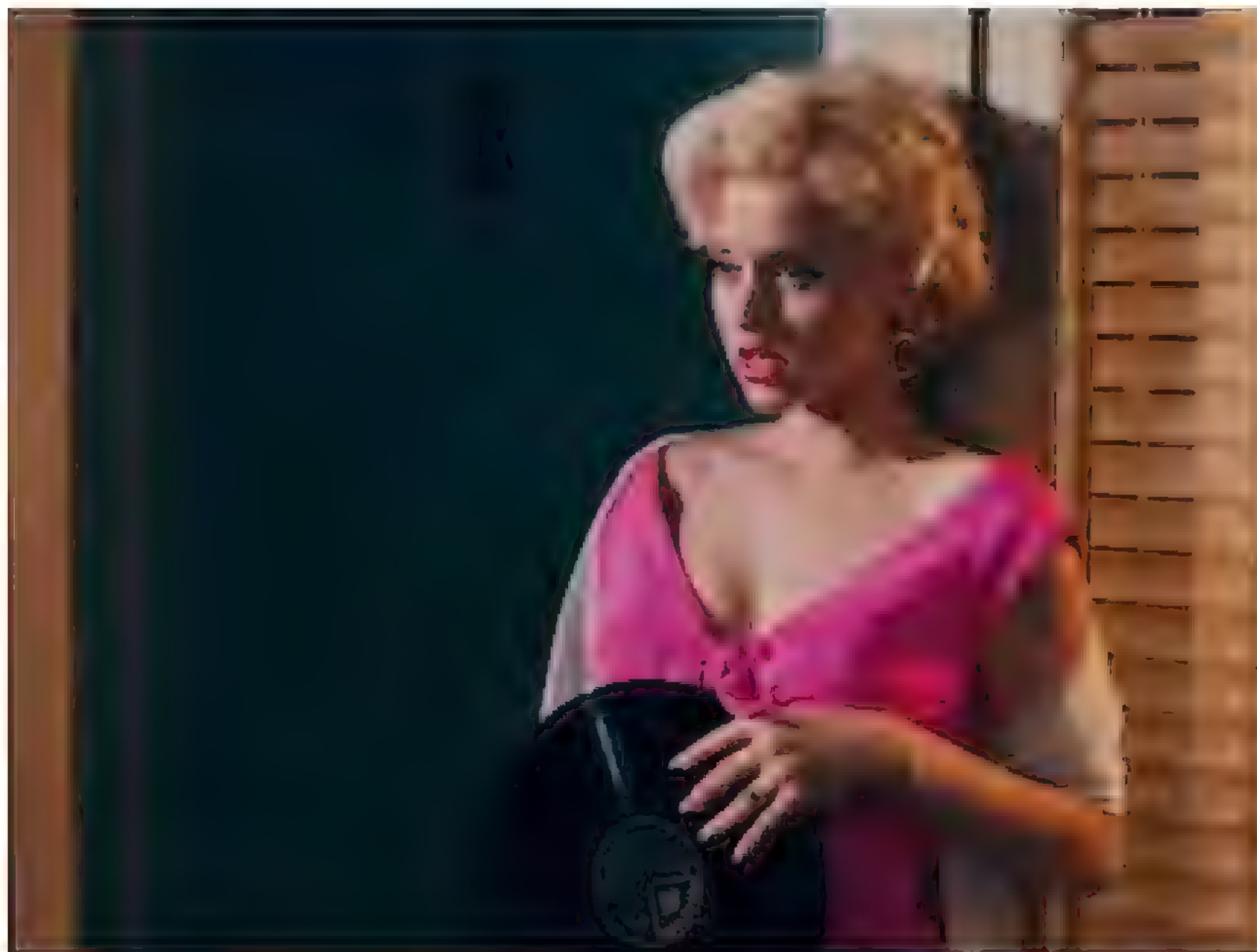
La Consagracion de la Primavera, Israel Galván

Israel Galvan is one of contemporary flamenco's great experimenters: charismatic and fiercely eccentric, always ready to play with traditions. In his new show, the percussive rhythms of flamenco meet those of Stravinsky's *The Rite of Spring*, played live by two onstage pianists. Galvan uses his body as a percussion instrument, while also responding to the work's history – from the riot that greeted its premiere to the imagery associated with its famous first choreographer, the star dancer Vaslav Nijinsky. *Sadler's Wells*, 25 to 26 November; sadlerswells.com

Zoe Anderson

Film

Blonde



Hollywood hell: Ana de Armas stars in Marilyn Monroe drama 'Blonde' (Netflix)

The scariest horror film of the year seems to be this highly anticipated Marilyn Monroe drama – a lopsided biopic by way of a *Saw* movie, starring an uncanny Ana de Armas. Reviews out of the Venice Film Festival were unsurprisingly divided. Some called its depiction of Monroe's endless abuse and trauma abhorrent, others found something dazzling in its arty nihilism. What is indisputable is that everyone will be talking about it once it hits Netflix. *Netflix, 28 September*

The Banshees of Inisherin

The anxious panic of breaking off a friendship is ramped up to comic extremes in Martin McDonagh's *The Banshees of Inisherin*, which has already drawn raves on the festival circuit. Brendan Gleeson and Colin Farrell – reunited with McDonagh 14 years after *In Bruges* – play inseparable besties living in a tiny Irish coastal village. That is until Gleeson's character decides to, seemingly apropos of nothing, cut ties. *21 October*

Black Panther: Wakanda Forever



Mythical Marvel: Angela Bassett stars in 'Black Panther: Wakanda Forever' (Marvel Studios)

The definition of madness is thinking that a modern Marvel movie could be anything other than lukewarm soup... but doesn't *Black Panther 2* look moderately decent? Absent its star – Chadwick Boseman died from cancer in 2020 – this sequel has a real-life tragedy to grapple with. But, based on the trailer, the visuals look strong, Angela Bassett seems to be getting a dramatic showcase, and we even have franchise newcomer Michaela Coel in warrior garb. Could the MCU finally be getting over its recent slump? *11 November*

Aftersun

Aftersun is rich with grief, revolving around a young woman looking back on a pivotal childhood holiday with her father. The feature debut of filmmaker Charlotte Wells – and produced by *Moonlight*'s Barry Jenkins – it sources profundity from hazy memories and is anchored by a pair of knockout performances by *Normal People*'s Paul Mescal and nine-year-old Francesca Corio. You will cry, but it'll be worth it. *18 November*

Adam White

TV

The Bear

I don't know about you, but my Twitter feed was clogged up for months with Americans raving about *The Bear*. This comedy-drama series, about a young chef (Jeremy Allen White) who takes over his family's Italian beef sandwich restaurant, finally makes its way over to British shores this October. I've seen it described as "*Uncut Gems* in a kitchen" – chaotic, charismatic, and by all accounts very funny. That's good enough for me! *Disney+*, 5 October

The Crown



Accession: Imelda Staunton takes over as Queen Elizabeth II in 'The Crown' (Netflix)

Netflix's high-budget royal drama returns for its fifth season this November, following the escapades of the Windsor family in the 1990s. Imelda Staunton will be taking over from Olivia Colman as Her Maj for this season, with Elizabeth Debicki playing Princess Diana as part of a fully rejigged cast that also includes Jonathan Pryce, Lesley Manville, Jonny Lee Miller, and Dominic West. Whether this season will be quite as scandal-making as the last – former culture secretary Oliver Dowden ordered Netflix declare the show as "fiction" – remains to be seen. *Netflix*, November

Willow

Based on the cult 1980s fantasy movie, *Willow* sees Warwick Davis reprise the role of dwarf sorcerer Willow Ufgood in a new live-action series. It's one of Disney's more hyped streaming

projects – certainly outside of the Marvel or Star Wars franchises – and gives the ever-enjoyable Davis his most prominent role since the Ricky Gervais/Stephen Merchant sitcom *Life's Too Short*. After 35 years away from the character, it's going to be intriguing what he can make of it. *Disney+*, 30 November

The Reckoning



Horror show: Steve Coogan will play Jimmy Savile (Getty)

The BBC's biographical series about sexual predator Jimmy Savile is sure to get a lot of attention when it finally hits screens – there's not so much as a trailer yet but it's already the topic of hot debate. Steve Coogan will tackle a rare dramatic role in his portrayal of the *Jim'll Fix It* star. Will it be tasteful? Will there be a point to it? Will it be any good? I suppose the only way to answer these questions will be to watch and find out. For some people though, the idea of spending a few hours in the company of Savile may just prove too off-putting to bear. *BBC*, autumn

Louis Chilton

Music

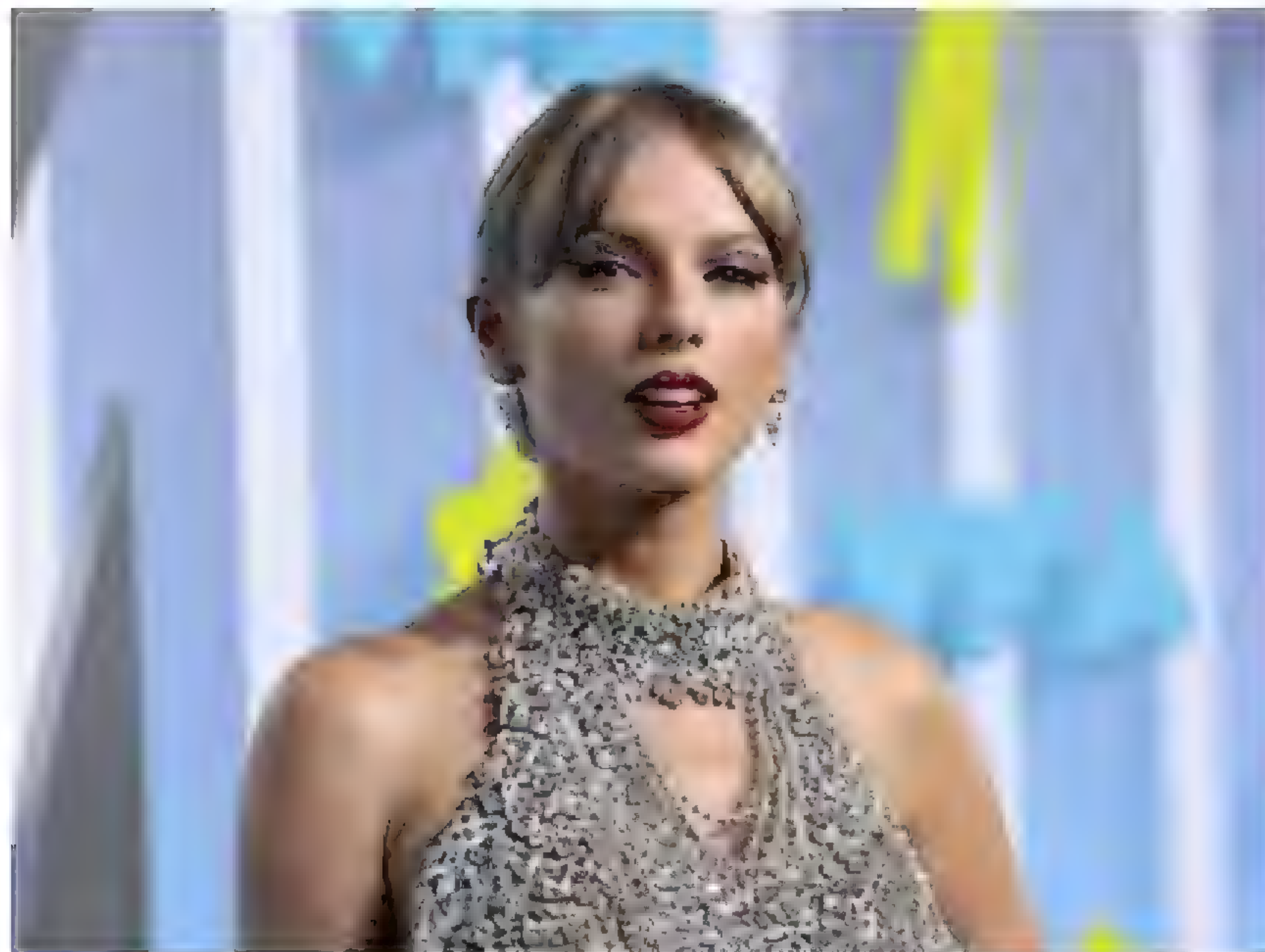
When We Were Young festival

Fancy a bit of nostalgia? How about a lot? Music fans will be flocking to Las Vegas's Festival Grounds on 22 October to see

some of the biggest emo bands around, from headliners Paramore and My Chemical Romance to Jimmy Eat World, The All-American Rejects, Taking Back Sunday, and pop-punk queen Avril Lavigne. You can expect plenty of Gen-Z emos in attendance too, thanks to the inclusion of younger acts such as LA rock band The Linda Lindas and gloomy singer Jxdn. The same lineup is performing on each of the three days, meaning you might have to be picky if you want to see your favourites.

Las Vegas, 22, 23 and 29 October

Taylor Swift and Arctic Monkeys release new albums



Midnight music: Taylor Swift releases her new album on 21 October (Getty)

Two highly anticipated albums arrive on 21 October, a day that will no doubt launch one of the fiercest chart battles in recent memory. Arctic Monkeys, long rumoured to be working on their follow-up to 2019's critically adored *Tranquility Base Hotel & Casino*, confirmed that new album *The Car* would come out in autumn. According to a press release, *The Car* finds the Arctics “running wild in a new and sumptuous musical landscape and contains some of the richest and most rewarding vocal performances of Alex Turner’s career”.

They go head to head with Taylor Swift, whose preference for surprise announcements continued at the MTV VMAs last month. She revealed that she was preparing to release her 10th

album, *Midnight*s, which she described as “a collection of music written in the middle of the night, a journey through terrors and sweet dreams. The floors we pace and the demons we face.” For fans of a little drama, it seems there might be a reference or two to her old feud with Kanye West and his now-ex Kim Kardashian: her announcement came 13 (her favourite number) years after the rapper’s notorious interruption of her VMAs speech in 2009. This year’s VMAs also happened to take place on Kardashian’s birthday. Happy birthday, Kim? *21 October*

Kendrick Lamar’s UK and Ireland tour



Stepping out: Glastonbury hero Kendrick Lamar returns for a full tour of the UK (PA)

Kendrick Lamar will bring his The Big Steppers tour to the UK and Ireland in November, following on from his triumphant headline set on the Pyramid Stage at this year’s Glastonbury festival. While the tour is named after his most recent album, the poetic *Mr Morale and the Big Steppers*, fans can expect plenty of hits from Lamar’s previous work, from the drama of 2017’s “Humble” to the playful bounce of “King Kunta”. *2 to 14 November*

Pitchfork Music Festival, London

Now in its second year, Pitchfork Music Festival in London is taking place at various venues around the city from 9-13 November. Already announced to perform are artists such as

Courtney Barnett, who's supporting her latest album *Things Take Time, Take Time*. Expect colourful, eclectic baroque pop from Welsh artist Cate Le Bon, and beautifully complex arrangements from Norway's Jenny Hval. Venues taking part include Earth in Hackney, Village Underground, Fabric and Islington Assembly Hall. *9 to 13 November*

Roisin O'Connor

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Section 2/ Arts



The Marvellous Ms Larson

Brie Larson has been trolled for years over her supposed failings in 'Captain Marvel' but, writes **Louis Chilton**, the online scorn was never about the Oscar winner's acting



Larson is about to reprise her contentious role in 'The Marvels' (AFP/Getty)

It was the kind of blunt answer you don't really see from an A-lister. Press events for Disney films are, usually, all wooden smiles and tight-lipped platitudes; all the actors have to focus on is gently batting back softball questions without dropping any spoilers. And yet, when Brie Larson was thrown exactly this

kind of innocuous inquiry last weekend at the Disney D23 fan expo, she seemed reluctant to play ball. The question was simple: How long will she keep playing Captain Marvel? “I don’t know,” she said. “Does anyone want me to do it again?” She smiled, but her delivery suggested this was no joke.

A bit of context. Larson joined the Marvel Cinematic Universe (MCU) – the world’s biggest superhero film franchise – back in 2019, with *Captain Marvel*. Larson played Carol Danvers, aka Captain Marvel, a US air force pilot turned space-travelling amnesiac who becomes imbued with godly superpowers. Larson was the first woman to front an MCU film, a full 21 entries into the canon. Prior to being cast as Danvers, she was an actor of considerable critical cache, having shone in 2014 indie flick *Short Term 12*, before winning the best actress Oscar for the harrowing 2015 drama *Room*.

Captain Marvel was a huge hit – scooping \$1.1bn at the box office – but received middling reviews. Larson herself became the target of a sustained campaign of bitter online hate from a particular subset of Marvel fans, laced with sexist undertones through to outright bigotry. To this day, YouTube is filled with videos of irate men, frothing at the mouth over the way she “ruined” a popular character. Her performance was deemed “flat” and un compelling; for many, she was to blame for the film’s lacklustre critical reception. Her off-screen behaviour, too, became fodder for scorn and abuse.



Well suited: Larson as iconic superhero Carol Danvers in 'Captain Marvel' (Marvel Studios)

It's easy to see why her spiky reaction to this question about her MCU future has been widely interpreted as a nod to this harassment. Seemingly backing up this notion, Larson shared a photograph on Monday of herself, two of her castmates and the director of next year's *Captain Marvel* sequel *The Marvels*, alongside the message: “*trolls combust*”.

A common refrain among the many social media users to have directed vitriol at Larson is that the backlash is not sexist at all. It is simply an honest reaction to an inferior film. The writing is cringe-worthy and uninspired, they say. Larson's character was smug and two-dimensional. She was not convincing in the role. All this may indeed be true, of course. But Larson alone can hardly be held accountable. The MCU is rife with two-dimensional characters, stiff performances and clunky dialogue. From Gwyneth Paltrow's abjectly disengaged Pepper Potts in the Iron Man films, to Benedict Cumberbatch's hammy, ersatz Doctor Strange, there are plenty of big-name actors out there in Marvel land giving performances that make Larson's look like a charisma juggernaut. But if you're not a man named Chris, the rules are different.

In *The Marvels*, directed by 32-year-old US talent Nia DaCosta, Larson's character teams up with Ms Marvel (played by Pakistani-born Canadian actor Iman Vellani) and Monica

Rambeau (played by Black actor Teyonah Parris). While Larson has been undeniably targeted for her gender, she is still white; you cannot help but dread the sort of poisonous pushback *The Marvels* will inevitably incur. Actors of colour who are given prominent roles in major film franchises are routinely the victims of heinous online abuse campaigns; even within the last few months, Moses Ingram was targeted after being handed a major villain role in the Star Wars spin-off *Obi-Wan Kenobi*. Many of the protestations were the same. “It’s not about race or gender.” “It’s just a badly written character.” “It’s just a bad performance.” Fool me once, etc.

Inevitably, Larson’s supposed failings as Captain Marvel have gained some amount of resonance through repetition. Say something enough times, and it becomes the narrative. The outpouring of support for Larson on social media would suggest that she still has plenty of ardent fans out there; we are talking, after all, about a film that charted in the 30 highest-grossing movies ever made. But it’s nonetheless a narrative that persists, one of which she is clearly acutely aware. If someone as big and successful as Brie Larson can be savaged by malignant social media trolls, what chance does anyone else have?

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Business

UK trade gap set to become ‘enormous’ despite relief



The trade deficit is fuelled by the soaring price of gas and oil (PA)

HOLLY WILLIAMS

Britain's trade gap narrowed to a better-than-expected £7.8bn in July, but experts warned it will surge to “enormous proportions” later this year as fuel prices soar higher due to Russia's war in Ukraine.

The Office for National Statistics (ONS) said the UK's total trade deficit in July eased back from £11.4bn in June.

The figures showed imports of fuels hit a new record high as the Russian war continues to wreak havoc on oil and gas markets, reaching a cost of more than £11bn.

The sum accounts for a record 21 per cent of all goods imported.

In the three months to July, the UK trade deficit, excluding precious metals, widened by £1.2bn to £27bn compared with the three months to April 2022, according to the ONS.

But economists at Pantheon Macroeconomics said that, despite the drop in July, Britain's trade deficit remains "massive by past standards" because of a surge in imports due to high energy prices.

The trade in fuels deficit – which includes oil, natural gas and other fuels – increased to £5.6bn in July, from £5.1bn in June.

Gabriella Dickens, at Pantheon Macroeconomics, said: "The trade deficit will reach enormous proportions over the coming months. For starters, futures prices suggest that the monthly trade deficit in natural gas, contained within the fuels component, will increase to about £8bn by the end of this year, from £1.8bn in July.

"In addition, past experience suggests that sterling's recent depreciation initially will boost the value of imports more than exports.

"Furthermore, exports likely will continue to struggle as external demand in key trading partners softens and Brexit frictions remain in place."

Ms Dickens is forecasting the trade deficit to grow to a record 7.5 per cent of gross domestic product in the final three months of 2022, up from 4.7 per cent in the second quarter.

PA

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Tax cuts will do little to stop the coming economic storm



PM's measures won't power up Britain's lagging GDP (PA)

JAMES MOORE

CHIEF BUSINESS COMMENTATOR

Fed up with the long run of bad news courtesy of the drizzle of bad economic numbers? (I feel the collective noun for rotten economic numbers ought to be a “drizzle of”).

Fear not: Liz Truss is going to fix it. Her tax cuts will “unlock growth”. Kaboom!

Torpid growth is the UK’s big economic problem and that has been the case for years. There is no end in sight. I’m writing this with the first estimate of July’s GDP having just landed. The Office for National Statistics (ONS) found growth of 0.2 per cent, a little less than the consensus forecast of 0.3 per cent but an improvement over June’s fall of 0.6 per cent, which has been partly blamed on the Jubilee bank holiday (so guess what’s coming).

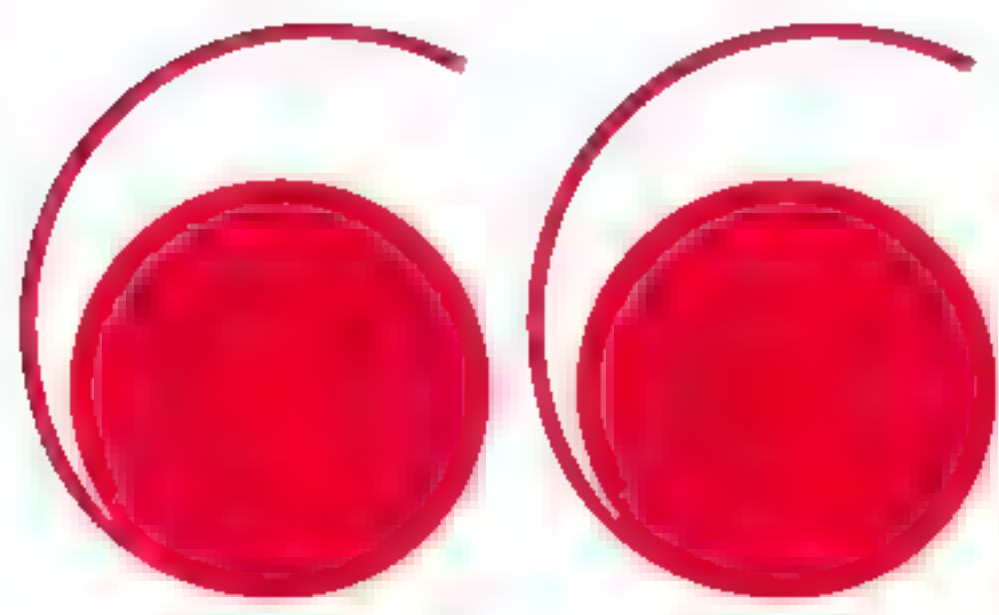
Is the UK sliding towards recession? The economy needs to record two consecutive three-month quarters in negative territory to qualify – and given the small contraction in the second, some think we’re already in one. The National Institute for Economic & Social Research (NIESR) is in that camp, despite July outperforming its expectations of zero growth.

A slow September is entirely possible given that the nation is officially in mourning, together with the impact of another extra public holiday for the Queen’s funeral. The latter doesn’t look like it will be offset by the sort of boost to the retail and hospitality sectors that usually go hand in hand with holiday weekends.

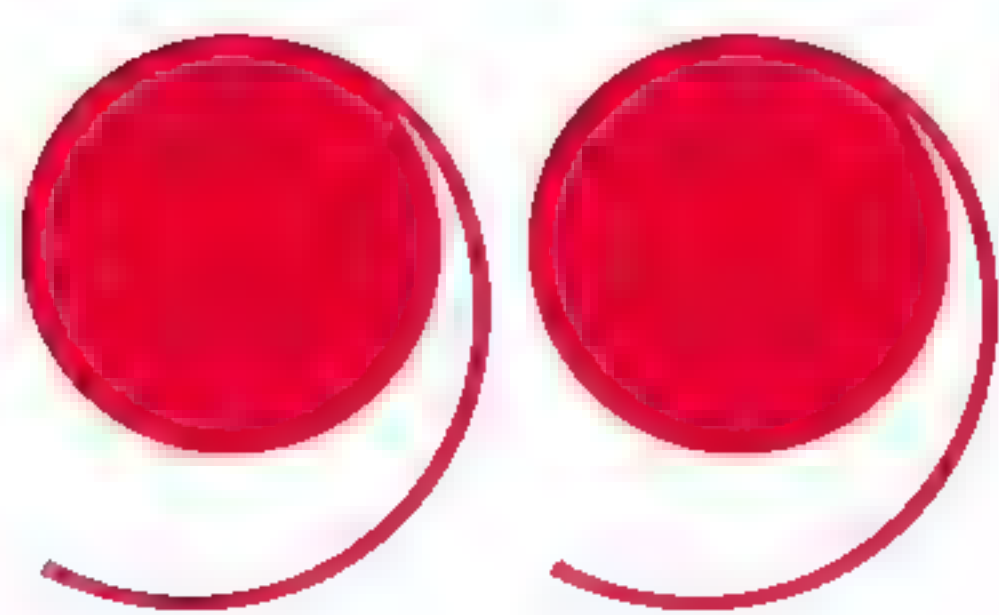
There is, of course, Truss’ energy price freeze, which should serve as soothing balm. A recession this year isn’t in the more optimistic Investec’s baseline case (although it isn’t ruling it out). However, the broker’s view turns darker in the New Year over its fears that interest rates could reach 4 per cent by next spring.

There you have the problem with Truss’s plans to cut both personal and corporation taxes (or at least reverse recent and/or planned increases). With respect to personal taxes (which includes national insurance), it isn’t just that the government’s proposals will likely end up benefitting the wealthy the most at a time when low-income households are in desperate need of support. They will also be inflationary. The Bank of England will have to respond by raising interest rates to blunt the impact and

keep the lid on price rises. This is what may tip Britain into a (second?) recession next year.



Stuffing the civil service with ideologically aligned yes-men and women is a dangerous thing. It's how runaway trains get started. We all know how that ends



Team Truss seems blind to this, apparently viewing tax cuts for the wealthy and businesses as some sort of economic fairy dust, which will magically heal the nation's economic ills. Its response to critics is to ignore them, or shoot them if that's impossible.

Is this one the reasons behind the firing of Tom Scholar, the Treasury's "too orthodox" top mandarin? It certainly looks that way to me.

Stuffing the civil service with ideologically aligned yes-men and women is a dangerous thing to do. It is how runaway trains get started. We all know how that ends.

However, back to tax. It is true that the UK has been taxing heavily. The overall burden has been rising. But the real problem facing UK plc is less too much tax than it is too little investment.

On the business side, history has demonstrated that cutting corporation tax is no way to anchor improved business investment. The UK has long boasted about having the lowest headline rate of corporation tax in the G7. But it has consistently lagged behind the world's most successful economies when it

comes to investment, languishing close to the bottom of the European league tables let alone worldwide ones.

Tax breaks, or tax incentives if you prefer, would be a better way to proceed from a business standpoint. Truss's former leadership rival Rishi Sunak proved that they can be an effective way to stimulate investment with his super deduction coming out of the pandemic.

The downside of the policy was that it was ruinously expensive. But a less costly replacement was being planned until politics intervened and Sunak quit.

As for those personal tax cuts, they would be better directed towards improving Britain's dismal public services, something the electorate wants to see happening, especially with respect to the NHS. Is anyone paying attention to the electorate beyond Tory Party members? Apparently not.

But eventually hard facts are going to blow the fairy dust that is Trussonomics away. Probably quite quickly.

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Business news in brief



The London-listed confectionary chain will stop selling through its US websites (PA)

Hotel Chocolat to shut part of US business

Hotel Chocolat has said it will stop sales to customers through its own websites in the US. The London-listed retailer said it will end “US direct-to-consumer sales” via its website and stop its own warehousing and fulfilment operations in the country. It comes two months after the group said it was paring back its growth plans as customers grapple with the cost-of-living crisis. Hotel Chocolat said it would report a bottom-line loss for the year to 26 June after taking action amid the wider economic

uncertainty. The group previously announced plans to shut its US retail stores and halt investment in its joint venture in Japan. *PA*

Economy experiences ‘feeble’ rebound in July

Britain’s economy staged a modest rebound in July after contracting in June, but growth was held back by the heatwave and pressure from rocketing prices, official figures show. The Office for National Statistics said gross domestic product rose by 0.2 per cent between June and July following a drop of 0.6 per cent in the previous month, when output was affected by the Queen’s platinum jubilee bank holiday. But July’s growth was lower than the 0.3 per cent expected by most economists and still leaves the economy at risk of dropping into a recession as the cost of living crisis hits households and businesses. *PA*

Hotels hike prices ahead of Queen’s funeral

Hotel prices in London are up to four times higher on Sunday – the night before the Queen’s funeral – compared with a week later, analysis by the PA news agency found. Hundreds of thousands are expected to line the streets of the capital during the funeral at Westminster Abbey. But the cheapest room at Park Plaza County Hall – one of the closest hotels to Westminster Abbey – on Sunday night costs £1,299 compared with £269 seven days later, while many budget chains are already fully booked.

Mortgage options narrow this month

Borrowers have nearly 1,000 fewer mortgage deals to choose from than they did a year ago, with more than 500 deals vanishing since last month. The number of available fixed and variable rate home loans has shrunk to 3,890 – marking the lowest level since April 2021, moneyfacts.co.uk said. Some 517 fewer residential mortgages were available this month than the total counted by Moneyfacts just a month earlier, in August.

Eleanor Williams, a finance expert at Moneyfacts, said rising rates “may well be disappointing for many, particularly those with a now maturing two-year fixed-rate deal”.

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EFL returns midweek but weekend games in balance

Arsenal see their home Europa League tie postponed



A minute's silence for the Queen will be held before fixtures today and tomorrow (PA)

JAMIE GARDNER

The English Football League has announced its teams will return to action tonight. The league's weekend programme was postponed as a mark of respect after the Queen's death, but the midweek matches scheduled for today and tomorrow are set to go ahead, with tributes to be paid at games around the country.

“A minute’s silence will be held before matches, with black armbands to be worn by participants, flags to be flown at half-mast and the national anthem to be played in stadiums,” an EFL statement said. “With a national policing plan now in operation, the league and clubs will continue to work with forces in respect of any challenges that may emerge regarding policing of specific fixtures. Consideration to individual circumstances will be made on a case-by-case basis, in line with standard match safety advisory group (SAG) protocols.”

It is understood all the midweek EFL matches will go ahead as planned, even those taking place in London. However, it is not yet certain that all matches in the Premier League or EFL at the weekend will go ahead as planned due to the strain on police resources as a result of the Queen’s state funeral, which will take place next Monday.

Arsenal’s Europa League tie against PSV Eindhoven on Thursday has already been postponed due to “severe limitations on police resources”.

Sports governing bodies were meeting again with the government yesterday to discuss the scheduling of events this weekend. Discussions with Uefa are ongoing over the scheduled European fixtures this week involving British clubs in the Champions League, Europa League and European Conference League. Rangers’ Champions League tie with Napoli has been put back a day to tomorrow, due to “severe limitations on police resources and organisational issues”.

As a result, away fans will not be permitted for both matches between the two clubs “as a matter of sporting fairness”, according to Uefa. The Football Association of Wales (FAW) said all its competitions can resume from today.

The Premier League resumes on Friday night, when Aston Villa host Southampton and Fulham travel to Nottingham Forest. In London, Tottenham take on Leicester on Saturday evening, while Brentford play Arsenal and Chelsea are at home to Liverpool on Sunday. “We will work with football clubs to try and ensure that, where possible, football fixtures can take place

safely when balanced against the requirement to support national events and deliver day-to-day policing,” said a statement from the National Police Chief’s Council. “This is a unique situation and we are working closely with everyone involved.”



England’s cricketers observed a minute's silence before the Test match against South Africa at the Oval on Saturday (PA)

All six Gallagher Premiership matches next weekend will go ahead as planned unless there is a directive from the government. The opening round of Premiership fixtures did take place this weekend, although Friday’s two games were pushed back to Saturday and Sunday. Super League’s play-off semi-finals will be held on Friday (Wigan v Leeds) and Saturday (St Helens v Salford).

“As a mark of respect to Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II, the Betfred Super League Awards, which was scheduled to take place at Headingley Stadium on the evening of Monday, 19 September will now take place at the same venue on Tuesday, 20 September,” said a statement.

England’s women’s ODI games starting today, Thursday and the weekend and the Royal London Cup on Saturday will all go ahead, PA understands. Many other sporting occasions went ahead this weekend, offering spectators and participants opportunities to pay their respects.

In the Test match between England and South Africa at the Oval, players wore black armbands and there was a rendition of

‘God Save the King’. There were also tributes ahead of the Super League play-off eliminator between Huddersfield and Salford as well as Gallagher Premiership matches.

There will be no racing in Britain on the day of the Queen’s funeral. The British Horseracing Authority (BHA) confirmed on Saturday evening that the 19 September meetings scheduled for Hamilton, Leicester, Warwick and Wolverhampton would be cancelled as a mark of respect.

PA

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Liverpool plot a way back from Klopp's lowest low

Reds welcome Ajax after Euro 'horror show' in Naples



Jurgen Klopp said the 4-1 defeat was 'the worst game we played since I came here' (Getty)

RICHARD JOLLY

SENIOR FOOTBALL CORRESPONDENT

Even when a deserted Villa Park featured a surreal scoreline, when Liverpool conceded seven goals in a game for the first

time since 1963, Jurgen Klopp had moments where he saw glimpses of his team. He did in 2020's 7-2 thrashing by Aston Villa, just as he had in 387 other matches as Liverpool manager.

Until they went to Naples last week. "In this particular game, nothing," Klopp said. Everything – their defending, their pressing game, their cohesion and organisation – broke down completely. Liverpool lost 4-1 and, as Klopp said: "We could have conceded more, which is crazy."

An impromptu break, caused by non-footballing factors, has given Liverpool more time to stage an inquest into their ineptitude. Klopp has played back the tape of the evisceration in Italy, time and again. It is his video nasty. "A real horror show," he said. It has stood out for all the wrong reasons. "It was the worst game we played since I came here."

There was no equivocation, no doubt about it. There have been a few spectacular setbacks in Klopp's time, but each has been accompanied by mitigating factors or moments when Liverpool resembled themselves. Not this one. There were symbolic moments, beyond the goals and the goal-line clearance, the two penalties they conceded, the time Napoli opened them up with barely 40 seconds gone. "When James Milner arrives late for challenges, you know something is wrong," Klopp said. The paragon of reliability proved unreliable. The mentality monsters caved in.

A spell of soul-searching has followed. "Four or five days of absolute truths," Klopp said. "We didn't hide anything; we didn't hold back anything. But not to knock the players down, just to make sure where we are now is the starting point and to make sure we sort the problems together on the pitch." There is a recognition that issues predated Napoli, but an intention to make sure it is rock bottom. "We were not over the moon about our season," he said. "It is step by step, you don't sort big problems like this [straight away]." Liverpool may have to build from the back. "It is all based on real defending and that is what we have to show. Everything my teams do in football is based on a really solid if not perfect defending."



Mo Salah looks shellshocked at the Stadio Diego Armando Maradona last week (AP)

But for him, defending is a collective enterprise. Liverpool made it simple for Napoli to play against them. Their midfield was stretched and ragged. There was no gegenpressing – the coaching philosophy synonymous with German coaches of a team immediately attempting to win back possession rather than regrouping into formation. He was bemused to be asked if the postponement of Liverpool’s Saturday match against Wolves came at a cost to their rhythm. “We had no rhythm,” he replied. “Did you watch our game against Napoli?” His own verdict was that eight of the starting 11 were poor, three merely average. That trio probably included Alisson and Luis Diaz, perhaps joined by Andy Robertson or Harvey Elliott, whose status as the youngest may mean he is blamed the least.

Inside the dressing room, they found fault with themselves. Klopp famously described his style of play as “heavy-metal football.” Joel Matip’s version of that was to say there were “a lot of heavy faces” last week. “Everyone was really critical of himself,” added the centre back, who was parachuted in at half-time when they were already 3-0 down.

Liverpool, his manager said, were not playing the blame game. “There was no pointing at each other.” But there have been meetings, collectively and individually. Klopp has been proactive. “I have to do something I can’t sit there and wait for how we react,” he said.

He specialises in trying to turn a negative into a positive. A nadir may have tested that capacity. “Is this the situation I wanted? No,” he said. “But now you are in it you find it interesting and challenging. A lot of good things happen in the past and this team showed an incredible kind of consistency over a long period and I know how this business works. I didn’t read a word – maybe 10 words altogether – what was said about us but most of the things were fair, probably. I watched the game back plenty of times and I would have asked a lot of questions about the people and the manager and the specific players. It is absolutely okay.”

Now the aim is to ensure Napoli remains the low, that whatever comes against Ajax tonight and in the future is an improvement. Liverpool have no complaints about the criticism, whether from outsiders or insiders. “Sometimes it hurts and this is normal but in a good team, which I think we are, you can speak about these truths,” Matip said. “You don’t like to hear them in the first moment sometimes but everybody knows something has to happen.” And that something cannot be a sequel to Klopp’s horror film.

Liverpool vs Ajax kicks off at 8pm on BT Sport 2

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Bayern and Barcelona face hard questions over future



Robert Lewandowski cost the Catalan club more than £43m (EPA)

MIGUEL DELANEY

CHIEF FOOTBALL WRITER

The sight of Robert Lewandowski in a Barcelona jersey is going to irritate a few watching down from the Bayern Munich executive box tomorrow, but not because he wanted to leave the Allianz.

The German champions happily accepted the striker's desire for a new challenge, but weren't quite so keen on the manner Barcelona had done business this summer. It was one reason the transfer was so protracted. Bayern wanted the entirety of the €50m (£43.30m) up front. They got it, but there remains a residual feeling that the way the Bundesliga club do things is better for the general health of the game. Barca, it could be perceived, have been responsible for an approach that breeds chaos and inflates the entire market.

It has still had a short-term effect, which was part of the point. Barca go into this unusually important group game on the back of five straight wins, with the side having seemingly clicked under Xavi Hernandez. Bayern have meanwhile had their worst start to a domestic season in 11 years, after three straight draws.

Some of that is obvious readjustment after the departure of someone as important as Lewandowski. Some of it is coincidence. Some of it is just chaos in individual games, like the manner in which Matthijs de Ligt gave away a penalty at the end of Saturday's 2-2 draw with Stuttgart.

But, for certain figures involved, it is a translation of issues at the top of the club that are beginning to filter down.

While it's clearly far too early to say that Bayern won't win the title at a canter, or that they are suffering from the same kind of complacency that Juventus did after so long at top, the repeat German champions are undergoing the same kind of change that can destabilise even the strongest structures. This *can* be how empires fall.

Karl-Heinz Rummenigge and Uli Hoeness had a lot of faults but, not unlike Sir Alex Ferguson at Manchester United, they knew exactly how to run Bayern. They just didn't know what to do next, and there are now increasing questions within the game about their choice of replacements.



Bayern chief executive Oliver Kahn and sporting director Hasan Salihamidzic both face questions over their suitability for the roles (Getty Images)

Both chief executive Oliver Kahn and sporting director Hasan Salihamidzic are in such roles for the first time in their careers.

And while many say that Kahn may end up proving adept, figures at other clubs aren't quite so charitable towards Salihamidzic. Neither are some of those within Bayern.

He is seen as being one of the primary causes for Hansi Flick's departure.

Other sources go further. "He tries to be authoritative without having the authority," one figure says. "He has caused, for the first time in modern Bayern, a break between the management and the hierarchy... the club is a tinder box."

They weren't quite ready to explode on the transfer market, mind. One club, that went about business in a very different way to Barcelona, were staggered when they were left waiting weeks for a Bayern response. They couldn't believe the "arrogance".

There have been more questions about their general market dealings, meanwhile, with so much following on from a failure to make a decision on Lewandowski in 2020.

Although the Pole wanted to go after winning the Champions League, Bayern delayed, and essentially lost the momentum that had been growing with Erling Haaland. There was a feeling as

recently as mid-2021 that he favoured Munich. The discussions were certainly positive.

And while they have got a world-class replacement in Sadio Mane, he is a different sort of player, in a different kind of team.



Bayern lost the momentum that had been growing towards the capture of Erling Haaland, who eventually went to Manchester City instead (PA Media)

Bayern had briefly attempted to go for more expensive buys, such as Lucas Hernandez, Benjamin Pavard, De Ligt and Dayot Upamecano, but they have been nowhere near as successful as their more astute purchases such as Alphonso Davies and the effervescent Jamal Musiala.

Upamecano and De Ligt have provoked more questions than answers at the centre of defence. Upamecano has struggled under pressure, De Ligt has just struggled in the system.

It doesn't help that, even though Julian Nagelsmann is generally seen as a tactical genius, there is a growing belief that he is a Pep Guardiola successor in one of the less helpful ways. The Catalan was constantly criticised for taking unexpected tactical decisions to show off, rather than what was necessarily best for the team. While this generally hasn't been true, and Guardiola mostly made those moves out of pragmatism and caution, it might be a more accurate description of Nagelsmann.

Players are simultaneously wowed by what he can come up with and note a certain lack of authority.

There are a few ironies there.

Bayern have for so long been Germany's senior institution but are now largely driven by a series of figures lacking that longer-term experience. It doesn't help that their traditional position in the transfer market has been ended.

They are no longer just buying the best players in Germany - at once strengthening themselves while weakening their rivals - because the other clubs are selling to England for better prices. That has forced other institutional changes, and appointments of the finest recruitment specialist from other clubs.



Julian Nagelsmann has wowed his players with what he can come up with tactically but lacks authority (Getty Images)

It shouldn't be overlooked, either, that their youth set-up is considered "phenomenal". Even those that don't make it to the first team are generally sold for €15-25m, creating a cycle in another way.

It is another illustration of the ructions between the short, medium, and long-term, that this match so articulates.

At the very least, Bayern can go out and express themselves with no great pressure about the medium-term. That isn't quite the case for Barcelona.

They are looking good, but they kind of need to look good in the Champions League right through this season. This is precisely the risk of Joan Laporta's high-stakes strategy. It is predicated on

this Barcelona team being glamorously successful, which generally means going far in the Champions League.

That is the sort of plan that can be undone by one unlucky draw, which is pretty much what Barcelona have got. It is the one group with three giants in it, including Internazionale.

All have flaws. All have different issues in the short, medium and long-term. Barca, however, have the sight of Lewandowski at the top of a system that has so far worked very well for them.

It may yet create irritation at Bayern in another way.

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England waste no time to seal South Africa series win



Ollie Pope and Zak Crawley celebrate victory at the Oval (Action Images/Reuters)

DAVID CHARLESWORTH

England needed just 25 minutes on the final morning to wrap up a 2-1 Test series victory over South Africa. Play on the penultimate evening of the truncated third Test was contentiously halted due to bad light at the Oval with England just 33 short of overhauling a 130-target and with all 10 wickets in hand.

Surrey threw open their doors free of charge for the deferred denouement and there was no surprise twist as England claimed a nine-wicket win for their sixth Test success in seven matches this summer. Alex Lees was out for 39, lbw to Kagiso Rabada, with the not-out decision overturned on review as South Africa chanced their arm despite muted on-field appeals, handing the fast bowler a deserved wicket after seeing keeper Kyle Verreynne spill a regulation chance off an edge in his previous over.

Lees also nicked Marco Jansen just over third slip before his downfall in a streaky innings although his contribution in a 108-run opening partnership with Zak Crawley broke the back of the chase. Crawley ended his disappointing summer with a restorative 69 not out off just 57 balls, handsomely slamming Rabada through the vacant covers then doing likewise off Jansen for his 12th four which saw England home in their final assignment of the summer. Ollie Pope finished with a cameo unbeaten 11.

Not since 2004 have England prevailed in half a dozen Tests over the course of a single home summer and they go from strength to strength under captain Ben Stokes and head coach Brendon McCullum, with this come from behind series success over the Proteas featuring just nine days of on-field action.



Crawley and South Africa's Dean Elgar shake hands after the briefest of sessions (Action Images/Reuters)

Here, a washout on Thursday and Friday being called off as a mark of respect following the death of the Queen meant there was only a little more than two days in the field – with South Africa’s refusal to shift from their scheduled flight home today to possibly extend the match a distant memory now. England have mastered fourth-innings chases in the Stokes-McCullum era: this was their fifth successful pursuit this summer but one which seemed far from routine at the outset of a low-scoring thriller.

Neither side breached 170 over the weekend but while Lees was dropped off his first ball by Jansen in the slips on Sunday, Crawley peeled off boundaries at will in a superb 36-ball fifty as England went at almost six an over before the evening gloom led to play being stopped.

Crawley, too, was given a reprieve after reaching his first half-century in 17 Test innings and then edged between wicketkeeper and first slip on Sunday night, but he was an assured presence at the crease yesterday morning and this knock may for now temporarily silence his critics.

PA

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FALL OF AN EMPIRE

As the title slips away from the Scuderia, **Kieran Jackson** delves into Ferrari's history in Monza and questions if it's time for motorsport's most famous team to change



Charles Leclerc finished second at the Italian GP on Sunday (Getty)

Glistening in yellow overalls throughout a poignant 75th anniversary weekend, as the razor-sharp glare of the red-clad *tifosi* (supporters) honed in on every microscopic move and misstep, it is perhaps no wonder that Ferrari faltered under the basking sunshine at Monza on Sunday.

After all there is an exorbitant expectation, a supposition rather, among supporters of the Scuderia; a sort-of divine belief that anything other than perfection is an unfathomable failure. We are told, without debate, that Ferrari is passion. Ferrari is history. Ferrari is everything.

The reality is starker: Ferrari have not won the drivers' championship in 15 years. An era of being out-powered and out-thought by energy drink companies and German manufacturers has seen the "Prancing Horse" mocked for their mistakes, chastised for their clangers, savaged for their sins.

Ferrari's status, prestige and heritage in motorsport is still unmatched – but what effect does this actually have in the modern day? Are the devoted fanbase and legends of the past – Ascari, Lauda, Schumacher – actually a hindrance to the team and their route back to the Formula One summit?

A 2022 season where their ascent to championship challengers after years in the wilderness has been overshadowed by chronic miscalculations. So, with Charles Leclerc's title pursuit all but over amid the boisterous boos and jeers from the Monza grandstands, is it time Ferrari's mythical-like bubble burst as focus now shifts to 2023?

"Death will destroy my body, but my creatures will keep on living ever after in the years to come"

Enzo Ferrari was all too aware of the beast and legacy he created as he approached his death in 1988. At the time, only Pope John Paul II had more notoriety in Italian life than "Il Commendatore", a nod to the car executive's dictatorial regime amidst a blend of mechanical genius and madness.

A fulcrum of the company that became known as Scuderia Ferrari is, and always has been, the Autodrome Nazionale Monza situated in the city's glorious royal park. While Imola is situated closer to Ferrari's famed Maranello base, Monza has always been the cynosure for the *tifosi*; it has hosted every Italian Grand Prix bar one.



Enzo Ferrari, pictured at Monza in 1966, built Ferrari into a motorsport hegemon (Getty)

“Monza is not the link for my time in Formula One. It is the link for my passion for motorsport,” ex-Ferrari driver and fan favourite Jean Alesi tells *The Independent*. “This place feels part of me. Nothing has changed, you see kids walking alongside their families in Ferrari outfits and that’s the tradition. That’s what we talk about with the pressure to drive for Ferrari. It’s not only a team, it’s a family.”

It was appropriate that this year was a double-celebration then, for both team and circuit. While Ferrari – Italy’s team – was celebrating 75 years since opening their factory in Maranello, it is also Monza’s centenary year. Established as only the third permanent track in the world after Brooklands and Indianapolis in 1922, it was constructed at a rate of knots. Rome wasn’t built in a day but Monza was built in 110.

“The layout of the circuit is the fastest in the championship – and the tifosi are very close to the track,” Alesi describes. “When you go out of Ascari corner up to Parabolica [corner], you can see the people clearly. I once got pole for Ferrari at Monza and I could see I was doing well after each sector via the fans.” When walking around these picturesque parklands on a stifling September weekend, Ferrari’s grandiose appears in all forms. From gargantuan Prancing Horse banners caressing the terraces to fans enthusiastically waiting for the stars to appear from the Hotel de la Ville over the road.

FERRARI'S F1 WORLD CHAMPIONS

Alberto Ascari (1952, 1953)

Juan Manuel Fangio (1956)

Mike Hawthorn (1958)

Phil Hill (1961)

John Surtees (1964)

Niki Lauda (1975, 1977)

Jody Scheckter (1979)

Michael Schumacher (2000-2004)

Kimi Raikkonen (2007)

Even taxi drivers at the wheel vocalise, with unblemished passion and completely unprompted, their exaggerated and steely thoughts on Ferrari's fortunes. On track, though, the circuit's simplicity of long straights and twisty chicanes are still one of Formula One's ultimate tests.

"The race here used to be called the 'lotteria' [lottery]," Alesi summarises. "It's really like that, you cannot gamble." So to Sunday's race – and Ferrari's roll of the dice. An early virtual safety car saw Mattia Binotto's team pit Leclerc early, while Red Bull remained calm and composed in sticking to a one-stop strategy for Max Verstappen.

The punt did not pay off. It was not a blunder but a miscalculation and, whatever your thoughts on the safety car regulations which saw the race end frustratingly in yellow flag conditions, it was another instance of the Scuderia's decision-making coming unstuck in the heat of battle. This year, we've had Leclerc's screams down the radio in Monaco. And Carlos Sainz's rebuttal in Silverstone. Even last week at the Dutch Grand Prix saw a pit stop called so early that the mechanics were not ready to fit a wheel. Reliability issues have triggered season-changing retirements too in Barcelona, Baku and Spielberg.

Felipe Massa, who has come closest to winning a world championship since their last victory but missed out excruciatingly by one point to Lewis Hamilton in 2008, says the number of mistakes totted up by Ferrari race-by-race has been their undoing, as opposed to Red Bull stealing the show of their own accord.



So close: Ferrari's Felipe Massa missed out on the 2008 drivers' championship by a single point (Getty)

“We know for a team to win the championship, everything needs to be perfect,” he says. “So many things have taken away Ferrari’s chances of fighting for the title. When one element doesn’t work, your chances are over.” Alesi agrees – but has a reason for Ferrari’s failures: “It’s a young team coming back from years of struggling with Mercedes’ and Red Bull’s dominance.

“The mistakes of this year will be good experience for the future. And I don’t believe they will make them again. The fans are very similar to football fans – they get really upset but they still respect you for life.” With six races to go, Verstappen’s led to Leclerc is 116 points and he could wrap up the title in Singapore in three weeks’ time. Constructors-wise, the deficit to Red Bull is a mammoth 139 points and they only lead 2022 strugglers Mercedes by 35 points.



Team principal Mattia Binotto has dismissed calls for personnel on the pit wall to go (Getty)

As attention swings to next year, armed with a rapid car and the drivers to match, what needs to change at Maranello then? Team principal Binotto, an engineer by trade, has dismissed statements that the personnel on the pit wall needs to change. “We will not change the people,” he stated recently. “What is more important is simply the stability and making sure you’re improving race by race.”

There’s only so long though that the same old words run hollow. Confusion reigns over team radio, with Leclerc and Sainz asked to decide on “plan C” whilst driving at over 200mph. Look along the pit lane and no such contemplation exists; the decision-making process is clear. “Mattia has grown up a lot,” Massa says. “He is not the sole person to blame – but he is the one who needs to respond. He needs to try and fix it and then maybe you can take action.”



The 'tifosi' were left disappointed in Monza (Getty)

But delve deeper, as Ferrari enter a new era post-75 years with two drivers of the same ilk at peak-performance age, and perhaps the ethos of the motorsport hegemon could be tinkered with. It's time to change tact. Founder Enzo once said: "If I am unable to see the defects in the machine I create myself, how can I see properly into myself?"

In this case, the machine is the Ferrari beast itself. Self-evaluation over the coming months, modifying dizzying expectations for the fans in a direction more realistic and attainable, could set the Scuderia back on the championship-winning train. Binotto should not be afraid to tinker with his team; the route to success is often driven by cut-throat decisions.

The past is the past. Ferrari remain the most successful team in F1's 72-year history with 15 drivers' championships and 238 race wins but their competitors have advanced their methodologies. Galloping into next year, the Prancing Horse must now follow suit.

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Sport news in brief



New No 1: Carlos Alcaraz beat Casper Ruud to win the US Open (AP)

Alcaraz US Open win signals ‘changing of the guard’

Having earned his reputation as one of the fiercest competitors among a hungry group of young challengers to the “Big Three”, Carlos Alcaraz’s US Open final win over Casper Ruud not only brought the Spaniard a first major title but also saw him become the youngest world No 1 in ATP history.

For ESPN commentator Patrick McEnroe, the tide is starting to turn away from Rafael Nadal, Novak Djokovic and Roger Federer. “It’s remarkable to watch Alcaraz play this game, how he’s elevated the tempo of this game along with [Jannik]Sinner

and [Frances] Tiafoe and other young guys,” he said. “To me, it really is the start, it’s not the finish, but it’s the start of the real changing of the guard in men’s tennis.”

Costa returns to Premier League with Wolves

Wolverhampton Wanderers have confirmed the signing of former Chelsea and Atletico Madrid forward Diego Costa until the end of the season. The 33-year-old has been without a club since leaving Brazilian side Atletico Mineiro in January, but will return to Europe pending his international clearance.

“It’s a first-class club with very good players who know how to play football and having the chance to play in the Premier League again was the main thing,” he said. “Obviously, the club influenced my decision, especially knowing I will be able to adapt a lot more easily here not only from a technical point of view, the quality of the players, but also from the fact that a lot of the players are Portuguese and that will make my transition that much smoother.”

Costa scored 52 goals in three seasons at Stamford Bridge before a return to Atletico in 2017.

Red Roses want to be defined by winning trophies, says Hunter

England Women rugby captain Sarah Hunter says that the record-chasing Red Roses “want to be defined by winning trophies”. Her side will become the first Test team – male or female – to win 25 successive international matches if they beat Wales in Bristol today. The game is England’s final warm-up fixture before the World Cup in New Zealand next month.

She said: “For us, the ultimate will be if we can go down to New Zealand and we can get that World Cup trophy, and then I think it will make all the records even more special ... We want to be defined by winning trophies, and there is a pretty big trophy to go to New Zealand and try to win in what I think will be the most competitive World Cup that there has ever been.” *PA*

Australia to name new ODI captain after T20 World Cup

Australia will likely wait until after the T20 World Cup to unveil Aaron Finch's replacement as one-day captain, coach Andrew McDonald said. Finch bowed out of ODIs after leading Australia to a 3-0 series sweep of New Zealand in Cairns on Sunday, but will remain in charge of the T20 side.

"It's probably the end of the [T20] World Cup really isn't it?" McDonald told reporters about the successor. "We have got a little bit of time to consider what those options look like. We've got the [T20] World Cup in front of us so that's more pressing at this stage than filling the captaincy void."

Disgraced former Test captain Steve Smith and current Test skipper Pat Cummins are seen as strong candidates to replace Finch.

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